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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH 2015

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GRANTS FOR LOCAL STUDENTS?
DETAILS ON **PAGE 3**

COUPLE 'FLOAT' TO WEDDING RECEPTION!



Chris Hanks and Laura Williams were chauffeured to their wedding reception on a milk float! (Full story on page 5).
Photograph by
www.martinphillipsstudio.com

Conservatives launch a petition against car parking charges

by PHILIP IRWIN

CONSERVATIVES in the Vale have launched a petition in Cowbridge against proposals to introduce parking charges in two town car parks.

The car parks at the Town Hall and at The Butts have been earmarked for the new

charging system. The Vale Council has argued that the charges will stop cars being left in the park all day – a long-time complaint in the town.

As a result, the council argues, spaces will be more readily available

for shoppers who plan to stay for one, two or three hours.

Under the new charging structure, any stay over four hours will cost £5. Up to two hours, the cost will be £1. Three hours will cost £1.60, and up to four hours will cost £2.20.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

GCSE success at Cowbridge school leads to record sixth form numbers

FOLLOWING the school's "thrilling" A-Level results, the GCSE results of year-11 students at Cowbridge Comprehensive School are also a real cause for pride and celebration!

Mrs Thomas, headteacher, said: "We wish to congratulate all of our wonderful students who have set themselves high expectations and aspirations; they have worked incredibly hard to achieve their best! I am enormously proud of their achievements and endeavors."

"We believe that a number of factors contribute to our students' continued success year on year, which include the engagement and commitment of the students themselves, the dedication and skill of our staff and the resolute support of parents and key partners."

"Our students and staff have shown great resilience over the past two years particularly, where the education system and programmes of study have seen unprecedented changes, coupled with significant strains and cuts to budgets."

"We are delighted that 95 per cent of our students achieved five or more A* – C grades and that we have bucked the national trend again, with

significant proportions of students achieving the highest grades of A*/A, across a high number of subjects. Overall, 40 per cent of the students achieved the highest grades of A*/A compared with the national figure of 19.2 per cent.

"We are particularly delighted with the performance of students achieving the higher grades of A*/A in the core and statutory subjects of English (31 per cent), maths (33 per cent), science (34 per cent), ethics and philosophy (66 per cent), Welsh second language (43 per cent).

"Equally, we have seen significant proportions of high achievements, in the highest grades, in our foundation subjects. Our students' successes illustrate that we are providing great challenge and support to ensure that all students achieve their best and that significant numbers are best placed for high achievement at post-16 studies and, ultimately, in the strongest positions to compete for the top places at universities and places of work."

"We are looking forward to celebrating further with our students when they return in September, and to welcoming new students joining us for the next stage of their academic journey. Record numbers will join us this year for their post-16 studies."

Eternity with Love
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£2 off most tickets until 31st Aug, from Sorrento Furnishers and online

'MP's views not supported by his fellow Tories'

I AGREE with many local residents and businesses that car parking charges in Barry town centre are badly timed and detrimental to any efforts towards regeneration and I believe these charges should be resisted.

I am happy to work with those who have a genuine passion about our town.

However, I think it's a bit cheeky that Conservative MP Alun Cairns is campaigning against these charges – when it was a Tory Vale Council which electrified the Knap front car park ready for car park meters.

But this is not unusual behaviour for Mr Cairns. He bounced up and down protesting about the proposed new housing at Weycock Cross, but his Tory councillors on planning voted for them!

He became blue in the face over an incinerator on Barry Docks, then all Tory

councillors on the planning committee voted in favour of it. He supported a Dinas Powys bypass in Tory leaflets delivered just before the general election – then all his Tory councillors voted against putting the bypass in the Local Transport Plans that runs until 2030.

I have tackled Mr Cairns personally on the evidence that, he "says one thing and his Tory councillors do something completely different", only to be told he has no control over them.

When a politician is not supported by his party on this many occasions it is a sign of weakness – he cannot persuade his own party he is right.

It's easy to be in a photo and say what people want to hear, but we shouldn't be suckered by the politicians that turn up to the opening of an envelope but whose colleagues vote against them.

Coun Shirley Hodges, (Plaid Cymru the Party of Wales).

LDP changes up for consultation

WITH reference to the VOG deposit LDP schedule of proposed focused changes (2015), the council report has now been issued for public consultation – as announced on the VOG LDP website.

The proposed LDP focused changes include: FC 14: expanding the proposed Darren Farm development site by 59 per cent from 17ha to 27ha (with a corresponding 27ha reduction in area in the Thaw Valley Special Landscape Area).

FC 16: increasing the

affordable housing ratio on new housing developments from 35 per cent to 40 per cent in Cowbridge and the rural Vale (compared with 30 per cent in Barry and 35 per cent in Llantwit Major, Rhosce and St Athan).

Those residents who wish to oppose these proposed LDP changes can find guidance and an editable template council response form, provided by the Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents Group, on the <http://www.savedarrenfarm.co.uk> website.

Consultation responses must reach the council by Friday, September 4. **Chris Pearce,** (Coordinator, Cowbridge).

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Saving lives is more important than 41-year-old response targets'

I WRITE in response to Chris Franks' recent letter criticising the Welsh Government's decision to introduce changes to the way the Welsh Ambulance Service responds to urgent calls, allowing them to prioritise patients in most need of life-saving care.

The current eight-minute response target was introduced 41 years ago. Times have changed. Back then, our ambulances were merely used to transport critically-ill patients to hospital.

Today, our ambulances are highly sophisticated mobile hospitals, carrying the most advanced life-saving equipment available anywhere in the world. Our paramedics are highly trained, capable of delivering immediate life-saving interventions at the scene of an emergency.

Currently, if an ambulance arrives at a call within the eight-minute target and fails to save a person's life, it's deemed a success.

If an ambulance arrives one or two minutes later, and saves a person's life, it's deemed a failure. That cannot be right.

Under the changes being introduced, which have been recommended and designed by clinicians, not by politicians, the eight-minute target will remain for those people who need immediate life-saving care.

All other patients will receive a tailored response, based on their health needs, rather than a generic response based solely on a 41-year-old target. In addition, we will measure how successful

Hospital staff were 'brilliant'

IN reply to recent critics, I would like to say I have been a patient at the Princess of Wales hospital for the last four weeks, having life-saving surgery.

Without their expertise, care and attention, I would not be here today – they were brilliant. Many thanks for what they did for me.

Elizabeth Joyce Bruten, Llantwit Major.

'Christian is an inspiration'

WE went to see West Side Story at the Memorial Hall, Barry, and I want to congratulate all those involved in making the show success that it was.

It was Broadway brought to Barry. In particular, we would like to congratulate a gifted, dedicated, genuine young man Christian Bullen who put all of his knowledge, experience and passion into producing a successful show and building young people's

confidence and talent to ensure this happened.

It was lovely to see him take a role in this show too, which he played outstandingly. He has had such a positive impact on a very large number of children, young adults and adults lives through his dedication to making people achieve their potential, and is now a role model and idol to so many.

Looking forward to the next production which will be without a doubt as successful as this show and all previous shows. **Craig and Lisa Burrows, Barry.**

the ambulance service is at saving lives. That's because the care delivered on scene, together with taking the patient to the right treatment centre, has far more of an impact on their outcome and quality of life than simply arriving at the scene of an accident or incident within eight minutes.

These changes will do exactly what Mr Franks calls for – ensuring ambulances arrive quicker to care for patients, especially in life-threatening cases.

Vaughan Gething AM, (Deputy Minister for Health, Welsh Government).

'Better than the West End'

I HAD the pleasure of watching West Side Story at the Memorial Hall, Barry, on Friday.

The show was produced and directed by the multi-talented Christian Bullen, who did a superb job of directing.

choreographing and even performing as Bernardo.

The cast, orchestra, costumes, scenery were all amazing. This production was as good, or even better than shows I have seen in the West End of London.

Barry has a wonderful asset in Christian; he has helped and supported many young people with their acting and singing careers. Well done to you all.

Mrs C Jones, Barry.

Car parking: plans 'called in'

MANY residents and businesses have raised concerns over the Vale of Glamorgan Council cabinet report on car parking charges.

As a member of the economic and environment scrutiny committee, and with the support of my fellow ward councillors, I asked for the matter to be "called in".

This is for the report to be considered by scrutiny before any decisions are ratified.

The reasons for the call-in are:

1. No consultation, especially with the business community, Cowbridge Town Council and local Vale Council members.

2. Adverse effect of charging on business in Cowbridge...

3. Many points not yet evaluated, eg displaced long stay parking to residential streets.

These and other matters will be debated at the next scrutiny meeting in the first week of September, before the report is referred back to cabinet.

Coun Geoffrey Cox, (Member, Cowbridge ward, Vale of Glamorgan Council).

LITTER-FREE...

WATERY LANE is not the only place with a litter problem: quite often I see someone picking up litter in Cowbridge streets. I once stopped to congratulate him on his public spirit and he said: "There is no entry exam, anyone can do it but no-one ever does". Slightly embarrassed, I walked on. (Name and address supplied).

Walk to Remember with Marie Curie

I AM a Marie Curie nurse at the hospice in Penarth, and I am calling on your readers and friends and family to sign up for the 'Walk to Remember' at Cardiff Castle on Sunday, August 30.

This is a series of 10K evening walks taking place at 17 locations throughout the UK over the summer.

All the money raised will help Marie Curie nurses, like me, to provide more care and support to local people living with a terminal illness in their own homes, or here at the hospice.

The walk starts at 6.30pm from the grounds of Cardiff Castle and then, after the

walk as the sun goes down, you can enjoy live music from Perfect Day Dance Band, Circus Malabaristas Fire performers, a samba band, and lots more.

It only costs £10 to register online or on the night £20, and we ask everyone who takes part to try and raise as much as they possibly can as every penny raised goes towards caring for local people.

Walk to Remember at Cardiff Castle is open to everyone who wants to support Marie Curie and I hope the public will come along and join us.

To register, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/walktoremember or for more information, call 02920 426068.

Julia Taylor, (Marie Curie nurse).

'Tell us your stories of NHS services'

I AM writing, on behalf of Cardiff and Vale Community Health Council, the independent NHS Patient Watchdog, to ask members of the public and patients who access health services in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan for stories detailing their experiences of using local NHS services.

The stories will provide a valuable insight into the quality of the health care they have received and their opinion of services provided.

The stories are not just a sequence of events but include the emotional effect of the experience and the

storyteller's expectations and needs.

The story can relate to any part of the NHS, from primary care, ambulance services, including patient transport and emergency, outpatient and clinic appointments, to hospital services.

It is important that the health service, which is undergoing major changes at present, does not lose the ability to hear the voices of local people.

The CHC will be able to use the stories to target their monitoring activity of local NHS services and highlight any improvements that need to be made.

Stories can be sent in via post to our address above, or via email: Cavog.chief@ccficer@wal.esch.org.uk. **Stephen Allen,** Chief Officer.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
27 Thur	04.56	8.4	17.22	9.1
28 Fri	05.52	9.2	18.15	9.7
29 Sat	06.41	9.8	19.07	10.3
30 Sun	07.28	10.3	19.52	10.7
31 Mon	08.14	10.7	20.36	10.9
01 Tues	08.57	10.8	21.21	10.8
02 Wed	09.42	10.5	22.04	10.4
03 Thur	10.22	10.1	22.48	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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TREOES, LLANGAN
& ST MARY HILL

Lottery winners

WINNERS of the second Saron Chapel lottery draw were: first Mrs Kath Pitt; second Mrs Rebecca Guillaume; third Miss Sophie Jones. Congratulations to the lucky winners!

Treoes harvest

TREOES harvest celebrations take place on Sunday, September 6, and there is much to enjoy, with classes and entries covering every aspect of village life.

A bonus is that all entries in the domestic, home produce, craft and photography section are free.

Class 23, four decorated fairy cakes. Class 24, four decorated biscuits. Class 25, an animal made from a vegetable. Class 26, any craft item (eg woodwork, beads or knitting). Class 27, the longest dock leaf.

Domestic classes, home produce – courgette, marrow, cabbage, and a host of popular vegetables. Craft section, art section, drawing painting etc; photography class 21, sporting life; class 22, country life.

All entries should be in the village hall on September 6 from 12.30pm – 2pm. The hall will be closed from 2pm – 5pm for judging.

Meanwhile, will all the litter picking volunteers meet at the vestry at 1.45pm to get organised for the 2pm start?

The litter pick-up will finish at 3.30pm, when all the volunteers will meet back at the vestry for a welcome cup of tea or coffee.

The vestry will be open between 1.45pm and 3.45pm. The harvest service will take place at Saron between 4pm and 5pm.

Following the service, everyone will be welcome back to the village hall to purchase the produce.

SCOUTS SAY 'THANK YOU'

THE Cowbridge Scout group would like to say a very big thank you to David Johns, B&Q Bridgend, and Leekes Llantrisant, for donating the paint for us to paint our toilets and entrance of the Scout hut.

The job has needed upgrading for a long time, and it now looks great. A big thank you also to Ken and the plumber Rob James and Steve Segust flooring, for giving us a great discount – and a brilliant job they have all done!

Some of our parents really worked hard, and without their help this would have not been done.

We have paid for the new flooring and work from the money that we raised with the fashion show earlier in the year.

We are hoping to raise some more money with our jumble sale on Saturday, September 19 (10.30am–12.30pm); and we will be doing the Christmas post again.

Our Scout hut is being improved all the time. If anyone would like to hire the hall, please get in touch.

Christine Mallett,
Cowbridge Cub leader.

Night-walking challenge is a real test for Cardiff Airport fundraisers

by PHILIP IRWIN



It's midnight in Swansea Airport and the intrepid walkers prepare to set off.

STAFF at Cardiff Airport chose a tough 24-hour challenge recently to raise cash for Macmillan Cancer Support.

After a number of colleagues had been given a cancer diagnosis, six members of staff, Andrew Spragg, Olivia Kerslake, Kirsty Taylor-Holly, Paul Raymond, Adam Ralph, Jamil Hassan, agreed on a really testing charity walk, entitled 'Airport 2 Airport'.

They chose a route from Swansea Airport to Cardiff Airport, a mere 57 miles along the coastal path – and then determined to do it in 24 hours.

It was obvious from the outset that making good time along the coastal path when it was dark would be the biggest problem.

After several months training, the six set out at midnight on August 8, after being transported

to Swansea Airport by CJ Transport of Barry.

During the night, they passed through Mumbles, across the River Tawe and on to the Neath Port Talbot border where they watched the sun rise.

They continued through Baglan and Aberavon, past Margam and into Bridgend county borough, before stopping for a short time in Porthcawl.

A spokeswoman reported: "Unfortunately, three members of the group had to retire due to injury at this point, but undeterred the remaining three, Paul Raymond, Adam Ralph and Jamil Hassan, walked on."

"The heat of the day, sleep deprivation and the exhaustion of walking was starting to take its toll and the pace slowed as they left Porthcawl and moved towards Ogmere and Dunraven Bay, St Donat's and Summerhouse Point.

"With less than 10 miles to go they were exhausted but determined. They watched the sun set but were still not at their final destination...However, it was getting closer with every step."

"They finally arrived at Cardiff Airport at 11.38pm – just 22 minutes under their target of 24 hours!"

"Congratulations to everyone who took part. The fundraising also involved a karaoke night at the Flying Club in Rhosce and early indications are that they have raised more than £2,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support."

"Thank you to everyone who has donated and sponsored. Also thank you to CJ Transport, Desni in the staff canteen for providing water for the journey, to Cymru Framing for helping with the organisation, and to Cardiff Airport's charity committee for their support and advice."

Chance to apply for student grant

COWBRIDGE students who have left school and are continuing their education, are eligible to apply for a grant from one of three local charities for each year of their studies.

The Cowbridge Institute Educational Trust and the Evan Jenkins Charity support applicants who are under 25 years of age, while

Cowbridge with Llanblethian United Charities may support those over 25.

Clerk to the Trustees, Geoffrey Cox, explained: "Applicants must live within the qualifying area agreed with the Charity Commission. For Cowbridge Institute Educational Trust and Cowbridge with Llanblethian United Charities, this is the Town Council area of Cowbridge with Llanblethian."

"The Evan Jenkins Charity covers the old parishes of Llanblethian and Ystradowen, which include the villages of Trehermyll and Aberthyn."

"Application forms, which are straightforward and not subject to any means testing, are common for all three charities. They can be obtained by request on email, cowbridgeiet@gmail.com or as a hard copy from outside 27 St John's Close, Cowbridge, CF71 7HN."

"The next round of meetings for these charities is not until October/November. Applicants will not be contacted until after their requests have been considered at these meetings," Mr Cox added.

Barbers 72

Barbers 72 is now under new management, with existing and new staff, who are trained to the highest level.

No appointments are necessary, just pop in and enjoy our weekly deals, free wifi and refreshments. We have recently refurbished so we welcome you to take advantage of our stylish environment and spacious area.



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A-Level celebrations at Ysgol Llanhari...

THERE were smiles all around at Ysgol Llanhari as pupils, staff and parents were able to celebrate an excellent set of A-Level results, improving on last year's results in all aspects as 100 per cent of the pupils achieved the Level 3 indicator (A-E in two or more subjects).

A school spokeswoman said: "We are delighted that 75 per cent of the cohort achieved grades A*-C in two or more subjects with 24 per cent of the pupils, achieving A* and A grades in two or more subjects.

"We are very pleased that all pupils have achieved their potential and that their hard graft has been rewarded. Pupils have excelled in traditionally academic subjects and also in vocational qualifications.

"Congratulations to all pupils and staff, and we wish the pupils every success in the future as they embark on careers, or further their education at universities and colleges far and wide."

DATHLU CANLYNIADAU ARDDERCHOG SAFON UWCH YN YSGOL LLANHARI

BRAF iawn oedd tystio i firi dathlu canlyniadau 2015 ymhlith disgyblion y chweched dosbarth, staff, wrth iddynt bwydo i wella ymhellach ar ganlyniadau Safon Uwch y llynedd gyda 100% o'r disgyblion yn llwyddo i gyrraedd Trothwy Lefel 3 (graddau A-E mewn dau bwn neu fwy).

"Rydym yn hynod o falch bod 75% o'r disgyblion wedi llwyddo i ennill graddau A*-C mewn dau neu fwy o bynciau Safon Uwch, gyda 24% o'r disgyblion yn llwyddo i ennill graddau A* ac A mewn dau bwn neu fwy.

"Dathlwn llywdiant yr holl ddisgyblion sydd wedi cyrraedd eu potensial ac sydd wedi gweithio yn ddgyn a chael eu haeddiant. Dilynodd y disgyblion gyrsgau traddodiadol academaidd yn ogydd â phynciau galwedigaethol yn y chweched.

"Llongyfarchiadau i'r holl athrawon a disgyblion a dymunwn yn dda i'r bobl ifanc fydd yn cychwyn ar fyd gwaith neu yn parhau â'u hastudiaethau mewn prifysgolion neu golegau ymhob cwr o'r wlad."



Head boy Dafydd Tudor achieved three A grades and will study geology.



Rhianydd Reynolds and Ffion Bennett had a string of A grades at AS Level.



Jac Clements and Jack Bevan were pleased with their excellent results.



Dafydd Lawrence from Miskin, is heading off to study at the University of East Anglia.

...WHILE SCHOOL'S GCSE PUPILS ALSO SET HIGH STANDARDS!

ONCE again this year, year-11 pupils and teachers at Ysgol Llanhari have reaped the benefits of hard graft and perseverance as the GCSE results were announced.

The outstanding results built on the firm foundations set by last year's cohort, with 100 per cent of the pupils attaining five A* - C grades in GCSE or

equivalent qualifications.

Most notably, a fantastic 25 per cent of the cohort (eight girls and four boys) achieved five or more A*/A grades. 65 per cent of all the pupils achieved A* - C in maths and English or Welsh.

The school celebrated yet another set of excellent examination results which saw pupils across the ability range achieving their goals, reflecting their dedication to their studies. Staff and parents are delighted to be able to celebrate with all pupils who have fulfilled their potential and we look forward to welcoming many of them back to the sixth form, where they can further build on this firm foundation for their future studies.

Congratulations! **MAE'N rhaid dathlu eto yn Ysgol Llanhari! C y h o e d d w y d canlyniadau TGAU rhagorol yr wythnos hon ac unwaith eto eleni, penllanw dwy flynedd o lafur caled a**

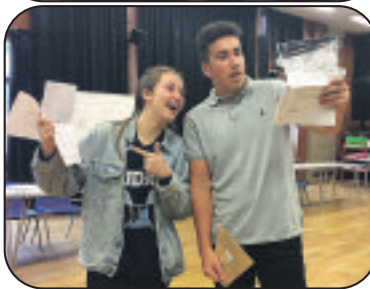
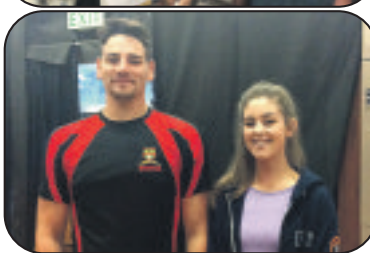
dyfalbarhad gan ddisgyblion a staff yw'r canlyniadau TGAU.

Mae'r canlyniadau yn adeiladu ar sylfaen a osodwyd mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol, gyda 100% o'r garfan yn llwyddo i ennill 5 gradd A* - C mewn pynciau TGAU neu gymhwysterau cyfwerth.

Testun balchder arbennig yw'r ffaith bod 25% o'r garfan (8 merch a 4 bachgen) wedi llwyddo i ennill pum neu fwy o raddau A*/A. Llywyddodd 65% o'r holl ddisgyblion i ennill gradd A* - C mewn mathemateg a Saesneg neu Gymraeg.

Prin oedd yr wynebau siomedig wrth inni fel ysgol ddathlu blwyddyn arall o ganlyniadau ardderchog lle llwyddodd disgyblion ar draws yr ystod gallu i gyrraedd eu nodau personol gan amlygu ymroddiad arbennig i'w hastudiaethau.

Dathlwn fel staff a rhieni gyda'r holl ddisgyblion sydd wedi gwreiddu eu potensial ac edrychwn ymlaen i weld nifer ohonynt yn datblygu ymhellach fel aelodau o'n chweched dosbarth. Llongyfarchiadau gwresog i chi gyd!



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MIDI

MAXI

XL MAXI

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (ST ATHAN PUBLIC FOOTPATH No 2 (PART)) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2015

On the 27th August 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

The Order will come into force on 1st September 2015 and will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council St Athan Public Footpath No 2 (Part) (Temporary Closure) Order 2015.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 1st September 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall proceed on foot in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location Footpath (Public Rights of Way) known as St Athan 2 from grid ref 301432 168186 in an easterly direction to its end.

Alt. Route During this closure a diversion from the point of closure in a southerly direction to St John's View then north via Rectory Road will be available.

Reason To prevent danger to pedestrians while construction work is carried out.

Duration From 00.01Hrs on Tuesday 1st September 2015 for a maximum period of six months.

Dated this 27th day of August 2015

M. E. Punter,
Head of Visible Services & Housing,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



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✓Among the Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupils celebrating their GCSE results were Matthew Keating, Ioan Wardaugh, Charlotte Adams and Sashini Jayasinghe.

Petition launched to 'ensure shoppers' views are heard'



ABOVE: A shopper is asked to sign the petition.

An AM calls for planning changes after borehole test gets green light

A regional AM, Suzy Davies, has said she is disappointed that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has issued an environmental permit for an exploratory borehole to be sunk at Merthyr Mawr.

NRW has issued the permit to Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd to safely manage the waste generated from an exploratory borehole.

The permit does not allow the company to carry out any hydraulic fracturing – fracking – or to extract any oil or gas.

The drilling and reinstatement of the land is expected to last no longer than 12 months.

Mrs Davies, who is a Tory AM, said that as Welsh Conservatives and the rest of the Assembly voted for a moratorium on fracking, it was pointless to allow exploratory drilling for gas, if fracking was needed to release it.

She went on: "I am disappointed that the views of local people in Merthyr Mawr, who were opposed to this application, were ignored."

"There are areas where methane is escaping naturally from the ground and I can see an argument in principle for capturing this gas because methane is a very damaging greenhouse gas – more so than carbon dioxide."

"What's urgently needed is new planning guidance from Welsh Government on such applications."

"The existing planning guidance is completely outdated and planning authorities are not being given proper help on this."

She said that the Welsh Conservatives have called repeatedly for the Welsh Government to update planning guidance but that nothing had been done.

She claimed: "The whole process is a shambles of their own making."

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

However, Alun Cairns MP, Andrew RT Davies AM and Assembly candidate Ross England were unimpressed with this line of reasoning and launched a petition in Cowbridge to "ensure that shoppers' views are heard by the local authority."

A similar petition is up and running in Barry.

Alun Cairns said: "I cannot overestimate the strength of feeling from the local community in Cowbridge and Barry rather than hindering."

"Local authorities around Great Britain are doing away with charges, and are listening to what a community wants and needs. The Vale

Council needs to pause, listen and act only with the will of the community."

Conservative Assembly candidate Ross England said: "The priority for the Council should be to foster successful towns, and they should be cutting costs before loading excessive charges on a community."

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, said: "Local residents are right to be very concerned about the possible implications of car park charges not just in terms of cost, but the possibility of side streets being used as unofficial car parks."

The petition can be signed in shops on Cowbridge High Street and Holton Road in Barry.

Choir is looking forward to a 'very important year'

A WELL-deserved summer break has allowed Barry Male Voice choristers a chance to relax, reflect and to look ahead.

Chairman Gareth Roberts said: "This is a very important year in the development of the choir. The recent well supported annual concert was an outstanding success."

"It was particularly enjoyed by the 16 new members who joined the choir following last autumn's very successful recruiting campaign."

"Earlier in May, the choir and supporters enjoyed a memorable visit to Rheinfelden, the Vale of Glamorgan's twin town in Germany."

Next year, the choir will visit Scotland in May and make an autumn visit to London to take part at the Festival of Male Voice Choirs in the Royal Albert Hall.

This autumn, the choir will hold another recruitment campaign and secretary Richard King explained: "Our 16 new members are enjoying

themselves and are very glad that they joined the choir following last year's campaign."

"We hope that any men with the slightest interest in singing will come along to our taster evening in the autumn."

"This will be a gentle introduction to male voice singing. We must not forget that choir life is not only about singing. It also provides a good social life for choristers, partners and friends."

The choir welcomed Barry-born Joan Ditchburn (nee Harkus) now of Perth, Australia to one of their recent rehearsals.

An emotional rendering of 'We'll keep a welcome' brought a tear to her eye.

Details of this autumn's recruitment campaign and choir activities will be found soon on the choir website, Facebook and Twitter.

GARETH JONES

95-year-old woman's four hour-plus wait for ambulance to arrive

by GEM REPORTER

A 95-year-old Barry woman, who fell over, suffering a gashed elbow and head wound, had to wait over four hours for an ambulance to arrive.

Mrs Marjorie Rowe, a resident at Springbank Nursing Home in the town, suffered a fall in her room at 5.20pm on Thursday, August 13.

Her son David told The GEM: "It happened at tea time. She gashed her elbow and was bleeding from a head wound."

"The care by the staff at Springbank was exemplary – one nurse stayed for an extra four hours to look after her."

Staff members managed to put a mattress under Mrs Rowe to make her comfortable. There were concerns she might have broken her shoulder.

After three quarters of an hour the staff called the Ambulance Service again and were told an ambulance was on its way. As minutes became hours, they made further calls.

David said: "The home phoned me at 6.30pm to let me know what had happened."

"At 7pm, I phoned back to find out which hospital she had gone to. She still hadn't left. I was desperately worried because she is 95 years old."

"It finally arrived at 10pm. She was taken to the University Hospital of Wales where they dressed her elbow. The head wound had stopped bleeding."

Mrs Rowe also had a

brain scan and an x-ray on her arm – fortunately she had broken nothing, but had experienced bad bruising.

'FRUSTRATING' At around 3am, a doctor said she could return to Barry, but she actually arrived back at Springbank in a 'non emergency' ambulance at 10am.

The Rowe family say it was a "terribly frustrating" experience and have asked local MP Alun Cairns to look into the matter.

Mr Cairns described what happened to Mrs Rowe as "a deeply troubling case" that had caused Marjorie and her family a tremendous amount of distress.

"The drivers and paramedics are performing in difficult circumstances, but they appear to be having to contend with serious operational issues."

"There are obvious problems in reaching patients in an acceptable time period, and I am concerned that scrapping the targets will simply

mask the problem.

"I wrote to Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust chief executive Tracy Myhill recently regarding another case in Llantwit Major for a full explanation of the incident, and I will be doing the same in the case of Mrs Rowe."

"I was told then that the service would improve."

"I don't think it is acceptable for a lady at any age, never mind 95 years old, to be kept waiting for almost five hours and then be kept away from her new home all night."

Bob Tooby, the Welsh Ambulance Service's

head of operations for the Cardiff and Vale area, said: "We'd like to extend our sincere apologies to Mrs Rowe, who no doubt had a painful and anxious wait for an ambulance."

"We completely appreciate that Mr Rowe has questions and concerns about what happened with his mother on that occasion and therefore we would urge Mr Rowe to contact us directly so that we can go through the matter in more detail."

"Until we're able to speak with Mr Rowe directly, we'd like to send Mrs Rowe our thoughts and very best wishes for a full recovery and reiterate our apologies once again."

'MP has got his facts wrong!'

I REFER to a report in The GEM last week which states that Alun Cairns MP welcomes the re-opening of the Ewenny Bridge, and continues to tell us that he worked with Network Rail to reduce the project time to a four-month closure, rather than six.

As the cabinet member for visible services, I would like to know how Mr Cairns could make this statement, given the fact that he had no part to play in the project.

The original closure was required from February 2 to June 30, a period of five months.

Following concerns raised by the local community, Network Rail and the Vale of

Glamorgan Council worked to delay the start date until March 16 – some six weeks later than originally scheduled.

Unfortunately, due to ground and rock-cutting conditions the final opening date was delayed until the end of July – this was advised via press release and residents' letters in April.

Taking into account the late start for the project, the net result was a reduced time period for the planned closure of two weeks.

Where Mr Cairns gets October from, I have no idea, only to say that in future he needs to get his facts straight and to contact me, if he requires information, involving the Vale of Glamorgan Highways Department.

Coun Gwyn John, Cabinet member for visible and leisure services.

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VALE of GLAMORGAN

COLLECTION DATES THIS AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

Please note the following changes to the collection dates for your waste and recycling this August Bank Holiday.

Normal Collection Day:	Will now be:
Monday 31st August	Tuesday 1st September
Tuesday 1st September	Wednesday 2nd September
Wednesday 2nd September	Thursday 3rd September
Thursday 3rd September	Friday 4th September
Friday 4th September	Saturday 5th September

The Waste and Recycling online calendars on the council website have been amended to reflect these new collection dates

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Looking back at the Vale Show in pictures *bringing the best of rural life to a wider public*

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ABOVE:
The GEM's
'Fonmon bees'
correspondent
Harold Williams,
with his partner
Barbara Chick.



The giant vegetable tent was
a really big attraction!



'I wouldn't want to
carve that at Halloween!'

Cardiff Airport air traffic control had to warn
aircraft about high-flying motor cyclists!



'THANK YOU' FOR A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE IN WEST SIDE STORY



ABOVE: David in character as Doc.

Harvest thanksgiving
ZOAR Presbyterian Church, Bonvilston, near the Aubrey Arms, is holding a Harvest Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, September 23 at 7pm.

The guest preacher is Rev Alan Richards Clark. Light refreshments to follow; the collection will go to the Vale Food Bank.

Everyone is welcome. Further information is available on 01446 781309.

BARRY ISLAND resident, **David Alexander**, has contacted The GEM to highlight the "magical" experience he and the cast of West Side Story had last week at the Memorial Hall Theatre.

David, a retired teacher, explained: "Last week I had the honour of playing Doc in Superstars in the Making's production of West Side Story.

"In an age when there is so much negative publicity about young people it was a privilege and an absolute joy to be involved in a production of this modern classic with such a wonderful group of young people.

"Apart from myself and Anthony Thomas, who doubled as Gladhand and Officer Krupke, the whole cast were in their teens or early twenties. They were so very hardworking - the choreography was hugely demanding - thoroughly professional and dedicated to getting every detail absolutely spot on.

"They could not have been more welcoming to us two 'old-hands', and

were enormous fun to work with.

"My second 'thank you' is to the people from Barry and further afield who came to see the show.

"A huge issue in theatres these days is people taking photographs or even filming shows on their mobile phones.

"It is actually copyright theft, spoils the experience for neighbouring members of the audience who want to concentrate on watching the show, and the red lights and reflected light from the screens on the faces of people doing it is very distracting for the performers. They have a colossal amount to remember and need absolute concentration.

"Not a red mobile phone light in sight! You sensed the audience's absolute attention as soon as you walked on stage and the applause that erupted at the end, a standing ovation every night, clearly demonstrated how everybody present enjoyed the show and appreciated the work and artistry that went into it.

"Thank you, cast, crew, Memo staff and audience for a truly magical experience."

Wick annual strawberry tea



A VERY successful strawberry tea for Breast Cancer Care was held in Wick on August 8.

The weather was perfect which brought along many supporters.

Thanks to all who gave their time, raffle prizes and fabulous cakes and to S&A Strawberries for their generosity once again.

JULIE BALL



Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

ADVERTISEMENT

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthowl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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11 CYCLISTS ON A 40-MILE CHARITY RIDE 'La Vuelta de Bar 44' raises vital funds for Velindre



The cyclists outside Bar 44 in Cowbridge at the beginning of 'La Vuelta de Bar 44'.

WHAT started as a bit of Twitter 'banter', resulted in 11 cyclists – most of whom had never met before – raising money for one of south Wales' great causes, Velindre Cancer Care.

On Thursday, August 20, the cyclists met at Bar 44 in Cowbridge and set out on a 40-mile cycle ride ending up in Llantrisant.

The idea, dreamt up by local cyclist Miguel Sutcliffe, incorporated a Spanish theme involving riders from the Glamorgan Brewing Company and Bar 44 coming together and celebrating their partnership and the start of the third 'Grand Tour' of the professional cycling season, La Vuelta a Espana.

The route was to cycle between all Bar 44 venues, ending up at the Glamorgan Brewing Company's HQ in

Llantrisant for a tour of their brewery. The ride was even given a name, 'La Vuelta de Bar 44' – The Tour of Bar 44.

The cyclists met first at Bar 44 in Cowbridge and set off for the next Bar 44 venue in Penarth. On arrival, one of the group suffered a puncture due to the mechanical setup of his bike he was unable to change the inner tube.

A quick Google search found a local bike mechanic at The Bike Shop in Penarth who remedied the situation free of charge after he heard about the nature of the ride.

The riders went onto Bar 44 Westgate Street in Cardiff and from there on to the Glamorgan Brewery Company in Llantrisant, where they were given a tour of the facilities and a talk on how the products are made.

At the end of the day, all the riders made a donation to Velindre Cancer Care and raised

£110. Miguel Sutcliffe told The GEM: "We all had a very enjoyable day and we will definitely be doing this again in the not too distant future."

"Details will be published on the Bar 44 Facebook and Twitter pages and anyone can feel free to join us on the next ride".

GCSE delight at St Richard Gwyn school

THE GCSE results in St Richard Gwyn School in Barry were a cause for celebration last week.

There were a number of notable performances: These included: Gem Pippis – 14A*s and one A; Emily Dobson – 4A*s, 2As, 2Bs and 3Cs; Rosy Ellis – 4A*s, 6As and 1B; Ellie Dunstan – 3A*s, 5As and 2Bs; Cerian Reynish – 3A*s, 7As and 1B; Caitlin Overton – 4A*s, 3As, 2Bs and 1C; Joseph Buckley – 2A*s, 8As and 1B; Thomas Dunstan – 1A*, 6As and 3Bs; Cieran Elliott – 1A*, 5As, 1B and 4Cs; Samuel Dumbleton – 1A*, 4As and 5Bs and Anna Chapple – 6As, 5Bs and 1C.

Newly appointed headteacher, Steven Grech, said: "We are very proud of all of our students, not just those who achieved the highest grades but also those who exceeded their target grades."

"These also included: Isla Sommerville – 1A*, 1B and 5Cs; Akash Benny – 5As, 3Bs and

1C; Joshua Turner – 1A, 3Bs and 6Cs; Laura Tobin – 3Bs and 6Cs; Denrore Caagbay – 2As, 4Bs and 6Cs; Ronan Williams – 1B and 7Cs; Joshua Omer – 5Cs and 1 Merit; Jayden Moller – 6Cs and 1 Merit; Jack Milsom – 5Cs and Leah Dutton – 2Bs and 4Cs."

Mr Grech continued: "We have maintained standards this year and it has given us an excellent foundation to build upon, moving forward into next year and beyond."

"I would like to pay tribute to all the teachers who have supported our students tirelessly during their studies and in particular Mrs Leftley who as year-11 progress leader, encouraged, motivated and led the group to some fantastic achievements."

"I would also like to thank our families for their unstinting support over the past five years and, on behalf of everyone at the school, wish all our students a happy and successful future."

Man forged sick notes to avoid unpaid work – COURT TOLD

A MAN who forged sick notes to enable him to not carry out unpaid work as part of a sentence, has been jailed for a total of 18 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Che Siirak (20), formerly of York Place, Barry, but who had been living in Church Village, had admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Prosecutor John Warren said that earlier this year, Siirak had appeared before the court for trading standards offences and had received a 12 month suspended sentence which involved 120 hours unpaid work.

He attended an induction meeting concerning the work and

Report by AJ SICLUNA

produced a sick note. Altogether, he produced nine sick notes involving anxiety, stomach problems and depression. Three of them, said Mr Warren, were forgeries.

When arrested, Siirak maintained they were genuine. One, he claimed, had been altered by his mother. This was untrue.

Siirak was said to have convictions for 93 offences, many for dishonesty.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said: "This was foolish behaviour, and he acted in an unsophisticated way. Many of the notes were valid and he had genuine reasons not to do unpaid work."

In the past, said Mr

Sharp, there had been a number of tragedies in his family life. A cousin died in a road traffic accident in the Brecon Beacons and a friend was murdered in Porthcawl.

"There has been concern about his mental health," said Mr Sharp, who pointed out he had been in custody for 53 days.

Judge Niclas Parry described his record as "shocking" and added: "You threw a chance you had been given in the past back in the court's face."

Attempting to pervert the course of justice, he said, struck at the root of the administration of justice.

For that offence, he was jailed for six months with 12 months consecutive for the breach of the suspended sentence.

Barry RAFA gets set for busy 'Wings' week

ALTHOUGH fundraising for any registered charity is continuous year on year, many will focus on a specific period to highlight its work.

In the Royal Air Forces Association, this period is referred to as 'Wings' week and is held throughout the UK in September, arranged around the anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

It is particularly poignant this year as it is the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain and 70 years since the ending of World War Two hostilities.

Barry branch, the oldest in Wales (formed in 1938), is bracing itself for a very busy period, beginning with a 'Wings' stall daily between September 1-6 at Morrisons; an Act of Remembrance at the Memo at 12.15pm Sunday, September 6 to which everyone is welcome; a pubs and clubs collection on Friday, September 11.

This is followed by an open invitation to the 'Celebrating the Youth of Barry' event on King Square, supported by the Barry Town Council and Bro Radio on September 12, combined with a street collection in Holton Road and Llantwit Major.

On September 15, the Vale Mayor Coun Fred Johnson is hosting a coffee morning for Barry RAFA at 10am at the Civic Offices.

Wings week then concludes with a concert at The Market Street Club on September 18 at 7.30pm, featuring talented vocalist Kris-Tina.

Although the branch has over 100 members throughout the Vale, many are not able to assist at these events and the work is left to the handful of hard working committee members, ably supported by the Air Cadets of 372 and 2300 SQN.

'The object for which the Association is established is to promote, through the comradeship engendered by its members, the welfare by charitable means of all serving and former members of our Air Forces, their spouses and dependents together with the widows and widowers and dependants of those who died whilst serving or subsequently.'

All monies raised are used to support the above statement of intent.

HOWARD PROVIS, Branch Secretary

Free tax advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale will run a free tax advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, September 7 from 9.30am-11.30am. No appointment needed; contact 01446 732385 for further information.



Members of the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum Transport Task Group are pictured with Network Rail staff.

Vale 50+ taskforce helps Network Rail to improve disabled access at Barry

THE Vale 50+ Strategy Forum's transport task group recently welcomed an invitation by Network Rail to help produce design solutions to improve accessibility for the disabled at Barry and Cadroxton train stations.

The Network Rail Team gave a presentation and led a consultation and discussion session enjoyed by 22 enthusiastic participants at the August

11 Transport Task Group meeting at the Civic Offices in Barry.

Network Rail is currently looking at design solutions to improve accessibility for the disabled at a number of stations across Wales.

More information on the work of the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum can be found on our website valeofp.webplus.net or by phoning the VOGC Older People's Coordinator, John Porter, on 01446 709779; email jporter@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Friends of the Earth meeting

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, at 7.30pm on Tuesday, September 1.

A spokesman said that following the decision of Vale councillors to allow an incinerator to be built on Barry Docks, the group aims to form a plan of opposition to the suggested storage and treatment of toxic bottom ash from Cardiff's incinerator.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Getting the Vale up to speed on broadband

WHAT do you use your mobile phone for mostly these days? Chances are that you now use your phone for browsing and social media more than you do for calls.

The ability to communicate quickly and reliably is, I consider, a vital tool in how we all go about our lives today.

That is why I am constantly pressing the networks and broadband providers hard for continuous improvements in 3G and 4G mobile reception and high speed broadband in Barry and the rest of the Vale.

I have recently visited a number of mobile phone masts in the Vale that are now providing 4G to more residents. Network providers like Three are seeing a huge increase in demand for data usage.

In the past six months alone, demand for data from a typical smartphone user has risen by over 50 per cent, and this astonishing rise, from 3.3gb to 4.65gb in average monthly demand, is expected to continue to grow enormously over the next few



Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers

years. There are a number of areas in the Vale that still require network infrastructure improvements, and when I met BT recently, I gave them a list of areas that still require work to improve the broadband speed.

I know from personal experience on a daily basis how maddening slow broadband speed and mobile phone reception is, and for residents it can be very

frustrating.

I have been campaigning since my election in 2010, for improvements in broadband and mobile infrastructure, and continue to do so. Significant progress has been made, but there is still work to do.

That is why I have invited representatives from BT to tour the Vale next month, so that I can personally highlight areas that still require help to achieve usable broadband speeds.

For businesses, a reliable and fast broadband speed is essential, I am pleased to see that areas like Vale Business Park in Llandow can now receive speeds up to 80mb.

However, with more and more people working from home, speeds to residential properties in our villages and towns are just as important.

Not every property will benefit from the current technology, but I am hopeful that a combination of improved mobile 4G broadband reception and continued investment by broadband suppliers can ensure that Vale of Glamorgan residents and businesses can access emails and the web in as many places as possible.

Valeways guided walks

ON Tuesday, September 1 at 10am, 'Crwydro' meet at Ynys Y Barri/Barry Island, Coffee Cove Cafe. On September 2, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Cosmeston Visitor Centre, CF64 5UY at 10.30am.

Duck race

LOCAL charity ValePlus is

WHAT'S ON

organising its annual duck race on Friday, August 28 at 1.30pm at The Saints, Dinas Powys.

Entry is £1 per duck (no limit on numbers). To reserve a duck, contact 01446 746691; all proceeds go towards providing opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.

Street surgery

INDEPENDENT councillors for Court ward, Barry, Richard and Robert Bertin, will hold a street surgery on Saturday, August 29 (11am-12 noon) in Upper Treharne Road, Merlin Place and Geraint Place.

Please display the posted leaflet in your front window if you would like them to call.

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Mayor offers a taste of the Vale



THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Fred Johnson JP, had a special reason for greeting artisan Vale baker Melanie Constantinou at the recent Vale Show.

Keen to take a local offering for his forthcoming visit to the Vale's twin town of Rheinfelden, he immediately placed an order for some of her freshly-baked and beautifully-packaged Bara Brith.

The Mayor said: "I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Mel and

several local food producers at the Vale show; the quality was exceptional and I am delighted to be able to support them wherever possible".

The Mayor is pictured, left, with Melanie Constantinou from Llantwit Major business, Baked by Mel.

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TOP GCSE RESULTS AT CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

FOLLOWING the publication of its first outstanding set of A-Level results, the Cathedral School is celebrating glowing GCSE results, as 71 per cent of grades were A*/A, 92 per cent were A*-B, 99 per cent were A* - C, and the most common grade achieved was A*.

Top performers, also at the Cathedral School. Headmaster Stephen Morris said: "Congratulations to our year-11 students on their GCSE results. Following the success of the school's first ever A-Level results, we are all absolutely thrilled that year-11 have done so well, which is testament to their hard work and the excellent teaching at the school. "We look forward to continuing into the sixth form here, being joined by students from other schools, attracted by the small class sizes, strong emphasis upon preparation for top universities, outstanding results and breadth of curricular opportunities, especially in music."

The school will host a whole school open morning (nursery - sixth form) on Saturday, October 3.

For further details, contact the Registrar on 029 2083 8504 or registrar@cathedral-school.co.uk.

Police link up with Chwarae Teg to boost equality drive

THE South Wales Police are joining forces with Chwarae Teg to deliver gender equality - starting with its own workforce.

The Welsh charity has been working since 1992 to help ensure women in Wales can enter the workplace, develop their skills and build rewarding careers, a spokesperson explained.

"This is the latest step in tackling gender equality in policing for South Wales Police, who have already begun a 'thematic review' of female officer recruitment, progression and retention across the force and will be involved in the 53rd Annual International Association of Women Police (IAWP) training conference in Cardiff from August 23 - 27."

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Sophie Howe said: "I am delighted that we have become Chwarae Teg's



Pictured are Sophie Howe, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales Police (white cardigan) Nikki Holland, assistant Chief Constable, South Wales Police; Joy Kent, Chief Executive, Chwarae Teg (right).

latest supporter and I look forward to working closely with them. We want to be the best at understanding the people and communities we serve and so it's important that our workforce are reflective of the communities of

South Wales, both in terms of the number of women police officers and staff, particularly at a senior level and in terms of the proportion of BME officers. "We have made great progress towards gender equality at the most

senior level which is encouraging but overall we remain under-represented by female officers and we are working to increase representation above Inspector level, where women are particularly under-represented."

Gentle Jet desperate for a loving home... TO END HIS LONG WAIT!

DOGS TRUST Bridgend is making a special appeal on behalf of its longest serving resident, Jet, who came to the charity over 989 days ago as a puppy in 2012.

Jet has been at the rehoming centre in Bridgend for over 25 years in dog time, which means he could potentially have been overlooked by over 6,000 people and seen nearly 2,000 of his counterparts find their own happy homes.

The sweet-natured crossbreed has been at the rehoming centre since before Wales won the 2012 Grand Slam. The London Olympics were still being planned and Cardiff were yet to ever play in the Premiership, and sadly, no-one has given him a second look.

Jet didn't have the best start in life after he came to the rehoming centre when his owners could no longer care for him. Despite this, he "absolutely adores people, and staff are baffled as to why adopters are not showing any interest in him."

He loves his home comforts so his carers are desperate to see him finally experience life in a loving home where he



Dogs Trust behaviourist Kim Rowe tries to cheer up sad-faced Jet.

can do what he enjoys - curling up on the sofa with his cuddly toys and someone to give him plenty of fuss and attention.

Linda Feagan Dogs Trust supporter relations officer, explained: "I love my job and have been lucky enough to have seen thousands of dogs find their 'forever' homes over the last four years, but nothing could really compare to seeing Jet finding a loving new family of his own."

"I know I shouldn't have favourites, but he is such a gentle, fun-loving dog that I have a real soft spot for him."

Linda added: "He is such an affectionate boy who would prefer to be the only dog in the home so that he can enjoy all your attention to himself."

"He is looking for a

home with older children as he is very energetic. His new owners will need to be very patient and prepared to help him settle into a home after spending so long in kennels.

"I can't believe that he has been so unlucky to have been overlooked over all this time by so many potential owners when he is such a fantastic dog."

"Jet is full of fun and he is very loving and affectionate. Although I will really miss him I know the right home is out there for him and I just hope this will finally be the year in which he finds it."

If you are interested in rehoming, please call our Bridgend Rehoming Centre 0300 303 0292 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk

Catch up with all the latest news from the area - follow us on Twitter @gem_news



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Ted's great escape from Poland to Wales

THE speaker at the last meeting of the Barry Men's Forum was Tadeusz Zygmunt Dobrowolny – better known to the Forum members and friends as Ted Dobbs.

He related a fascinating tale about his experiences during the Second World War. Up to the age of 14 he had led a normal life as a young boy growing up in Poland. However, on the political front, the situation was not normal.

He remembers his father, who was employed by the state railway, coming home one day and telling the family that he had booked a railway wagon and they were moving to eastern Poland. All their belongings were packed into the railway wagon and sent on ahead of the family.

They left just before the Nazis invaded Poland without his father who planned to follow later. The night before war was declared, the Germans started bombing the Polish railways and infrastructure, and they were unable to continue their travel by train to the east.

They never saw the wagon or their belongings again. He set out for his uncle's house – his mother, father and seven-week-old baby sister returned to the family home.

The Germans advanced rapidly and Ted recalled how they were unable to go out to the shops in the day, as the Stukas were strafing the city. The conquest of Poland lasted 28 days.

The Russians were reported invading Poland, and the people thought that they were coming to save them, only to learn later that a secret deal had been made between the Germans and the Russians to split up Poland between them, and the Russians were then the occupiers.

Life for Ted, the family and all Poles during this time, became very turbulent. Any Poles who were unfriendly to the Russians had to be liquidated. Even so, he did initially assist the Polish

underground in a non-fighting capacity, but after the killing of an SS policeman, 20 hostages were taken from the town never to be seen again and this outrage changed his participation.

He became an active fighter, even though he felt caught between two devils, his love of his home land, and the possible repercussions to the family.

At the end of the war, the Poles anticipated the oppression of the Russians would end; however, the Yalta conference completely let down the ambitions of the Poles by allowing the Russians to remain in charge.

Ted said he had to make a decision, whether to stay in Poland or leave his homeland. The deciding factor was when he found a note under the door, 'Don't stay in the house under any circumstances, YOU are on the LIST'.

A quick contact with an underground officer and he started his escape to the West, using false papers stating that he was a Dutchman returning from Auschwitz to his home in Holland.

Travelling with a friend, they reached Prague and from there they managed to get to Karlsbad. They found a frontier between the Russians and the

Americans. Under great danger, he managed to contact the American Army and was able to convince them he was Polish.

On June 14, 1945 he was given a document to this effect. It allowed him to cross the border where he joined the Polish forces in Italy.

He stayed there until the end of the occupation of Italy. He was then able to get to Cambridge in the UK, where he studied and learnt English. From Cambridge, he moved to a country he had never heard of before, Wales, to take a job as a leather worker, before he gained a place at college.

His life in Wales, he said was an amazing experience. He said that the friendliness and the standard of living was far better than anything he had experienced.

He soon settled and got married and he could not speak highly enough of his adopted country and its people.

The Barry Men's Forum meet at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, at the junction of Trinity Street and Aberystwyth Crescent every Thursday morning at 10.15am until noon.

On Thursday, September 3 Vernon Edwards will talk about the history and customs of the American 'Red' Indians. He is bringing some artefacts to illustrate his talk, including an authentic Indian head-dress.

For further information, about the Men's Forum, call 02920 594881. **PW**

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'Put the diabetes message on film'

I WOULD like to make your readers aware of a new film competition that has been launched for children and young people to help raise awareness of Type 1 diabetes in school.

The Diabetes in School Short Film Competition is open to all students aged 11 to 17 in my home country of Wales who are invited to submit a film, of no more than three minutes long, sharing their experiences of living with diabetes at school.

The competition is a great way for any local young budding Steven Spielbergs or Danny Boyles to develop and hone their skills, as well as promote a very important health message in schools.

Getting involved is really easy.



Welsh actress Elinor Crawley is helping raise awareness of Type 1 diabetes in schools.

Participants just need to get permission from their school to take part, and before they get going will need to think about the genre of the film, equipment they may need and where they would like to shoot the film.

But the main thing I've learnt as an avid film fan and an actress,

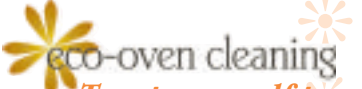
working on a number of different films, is that you need to have a clear idea of what you want your film to say, and how you want your audience to feel.

Having lived with Type 1 diabetes for over 10 years, I'm very excited to be on the judging panel for the competition and I'm really looking forward to seeing the films children and young people create in the Vale and Bridgend.

The competition will help to make a huge difference to the lives of thousands of children and young people across the country who are living with diabetes.

To apply to take part in the 'Diabetes in School' Short Film Competition and get more tips go to: www.diabetes.org.uk/short-film-competition.

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At Securahome, we act as project manager on every new conservatory or orangery build and frequently deal with extensions that require permissions. In our experience it pays to allow at least 10 weeks for authority planning permission, with sewer

agreements often involving a similar timescale.

When it comes to design, there are plenty of options to consider. Once you've spoken to a conservatory or orangery specialist, allow time to consider the layout and how you will use your new room as well as those all-important design features, before formal plans are drawn up and submitted.

This is your home, so it is important that everything is perfect.

In gardening terms, to ensure that you are sitting back in your new room when there's blossom on the trees, it makes good sense to set the process in motion before snowdrops send up their early green shoots.



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Welsh charity's 'Assault on young people' charge against UK Government

THE head of a Welsh charity has launched an attack on the UK Conservative Government, describing the withdrawal of an automatic entitlement to housing benefit for those aged between 18 and 21 and their exclusion from the 'living' wage as an "assault on young people".

Llamau chief executive Frances Beecher made the comments after the Welsh Government Minister for communities and tackling poverty, Lesley Griffiths had visited the charity's Ty Newydd project in Barry on August 18.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said he was disappointed Llamau was using such "partisan language".

Lesley Griffiths was visiting the project to

by GEM
REPORTER

find out more about Llamau's work with vulnerable, homeless young people in the Vale. The Ty Newydd project is operated by Llamau in partnership with the Vale Council.

Frances Beecher said: "We were delighted that the Minister chose to visit Ty Newydd today."

"Funded by 'Supporting People' funding, Ty Newydd

provides a valuable homelessness prevention service in the Vale.

"The Supporting People Fund, already subjected to harsh cuts, is threatened with further cuts in the coming financial year."

"Coupled with the assault on young people by the UK Government through the withdrawal of automatic entitlement to housing benefit for young people aged 18-21, and their exclusion from the National 'Living' Wage, we call on the Welsh Government to protect the most vulnerable young people in our communities."

"Projects like Ty Newydd are at risk if Supporting People funding is cut further, leaving homeless young people without support."

"I hope the Minister will get behind our campaign to protect Supporting People funding and projects like Ty Newydd for homeless young people in the future."

During her visit the Minister learned more about the experiences of the young people she

met and how their lives have been improved through support from Llamau.

'PARTISAN AND EMOTIVE'

In response to the remarks, Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I am disappointed that Llamau haven't engaged with me to talk through any issues, and instead used such partisan and emotive language."

"The recent election was won with a mandate for welfare reform. I am always available to discuss issues with the ultimate aim of getting young people into work."

"Welfare reforms are being introduced in steps, with a significant amount of consultation to ensure that those most in need are protected."

"Unemployment continues to fall, and the Vale of Glamorgan economy is creating jobs and opportunities for youngsters in many sectors. Being trapped on benefits doesn't help anyone, and it is the most vulnerable people in our society that need an opportunity to work."

Local councillors praise artisan market

LOCAL councillors Nic and Shirley Hodges congratulated stall holders at the annual Artisan Market along High Street, where there was a great variety of goods and produce for sale.

Coun Nic Hodges said that the standard of the stands was very high. "I especially liked the stall selling unique Barry-branded goods. There were also lovely crafts, arts and live music."

"The weather was kind and the music performed by the Box Band was first class."

Taylor Barrington, Miss Wales finalist 2016, was fundraising for the charity 'Beauty with a Purpose'. This organisation was created by Julia Morley in 1972 and is at the heart of the Miss World competition.

Coun Shirley Hodges said: "I hope High Street traders carry on with this event in the future."

"I suspect there are some parking issues to iron out, as we saw a number of parking tickets on cars, and I hope the Vale Council cooperate with the public and traders over this."



Couns Shirley and Nic at the Artisan Market.

Forum held on economic growth

THE Leader of the Welsh Conservatives has chaired the latest in a series of community engagement forums, focusing on economic growth and job creation in the Vale.

Held at the Vale Hotel, Hensol, stakeholders discussed what was needed to ensure sustained progress throughout the Vale.

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said: "These forums are

an excellent opportunity to engage with communities such as the Vale of Glamorgan, listen to views, inform policy and discuss new and alternative ways forward in all walks of Welsh life."

"Welsh Conservatives would scrap rates for all businesses valued up to 12 thousand pounds – and taper to 15 thousand – and introduce a new arms-length body to promote Wales abroad and boost inward investment, and implement our plans for regional banking in Wales, improving access to business finance."

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It isn't too late to register for your free Coffee Morning Kit. Simply visit www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk, call 0845 602 1246 or text SEPT to 70550.

Don't forget to tell us about your coffee morning plans. Tweet @MacmillanCymru or message us at

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Susan Morris,
(Macmillan Cancer Support General Manager for Wales).

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AWARDS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP!

I WAS very pleased to begin the month by attending a ceremony at Dyffryn Gardens to celebrate it being named by the National Trust as Wales' most 'special place' for 2015.

Dyffryn Gardens was nominated for its breathtaking landscaped gardens, which include its famous cacti collection, arboretum and the recently-renovated 1920s garden rooms.

The iconic Vale landmark was this year's clear and deserved winner and scooped more than a third of the final votes. It is also pertinent to note that this award celebrates the best place to visit in the country, as voted for by the public.

I was really pleased to be present at the award ceremony announcement. It shows just how special the Vale of Glamorgan is to visit. I am doubly proud of this success because this is the second successive year in which an attraction in the Vale of Glamorgan county has won the award, with the 2014 award having been won by Penarth Pier.

These consecutive victories provide clear evidence that the Vale is firmly on the map as one of Wales' leading

tourist destinations. Indeed, we are blessed in having on our doorstep not only Dyffryn House and Penarth pier, but also having the Heritage Coast span the Vale of Glamorgan.

In winning these awards, it has also demonstrated the importance of the Vale of Glamorgan Council working with different organisations. Both Dyffryn Gardens and Penarth pier are examples of new ways of working, as both landmarks are still owned by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

In 2013, Dyffryn Gardens was leased to the National Trust and Penarth Pier Pavilion to Penarth Arts & Crafts (PACL), a local community group.

Working in this way has resulted in two great examples of the Vale of Glamorgan Council working in partnership with other organisations to provide improved services and being recognised for their success.

The success of this way of working can also be seen in the Vale's leisure centres. Users of these facilities will be aware that these are now managed by a private operator and that successfully contracting out the management of the Vale's leisure

centres to Parkwood Leisure has resulted in a saving of £1.5m to the council.

This change in delivery of this aspect of our leisure service has not only saved the council money, it has resulted in a £3million investment into the facilities, a wider programme of activities being on offer to users, and higher numbers of staff employed. Most importantly it has brought a higher quality of service and increased usage while preventing any leisure centre closures.

Again, it is pleasing to note that since implementing this new way of managing leisure centres, the Vale of Glamorgan has been ranked first in Wales for Adult Physical Activity in the most recent Sport Wales survey and second in the most recent Sport Wales School Sport survey, which measures physical activity in children and young people.

We have also been encouraged by the newly rejuvenated Barry Island, which has brought in more and more tourists who can enjoy the beach and new attractions, like the newly operated funfair. I believe Barry Island can once again genuinely compete with

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by **Coun NEIL MOORE**
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

anywhere else in Wales. Apart from that we have this month seen the announcement that all six of the public parks in the Vale of Glamorgan have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag status.

Yet more evidence can be found in the centre of Barry Waterfront, where the renovation of the historic Pumphouse, made possible by an innovative new lease put in place by the Vale Council, continues at great pace.

This is another example of the Council working in the private sector in helping to bring back into use a previously redundant building.

Just a few miles away, work will soon start to clear the land at Cemetery Approach, where we will be working in partnership with Barry Town

Council to transform unused land into a community garden and open public space.

We have also been proactive in developing better ways of using our resources and are using planning-gain money (also known as Section 106 receipts) to redevelop some of our children's play facilities, in the areas where development has taken place.

We have commenced this work initially in Barry and recently I had the opportunity of taking a tour of the six playgrounds that so far have been, or are being, developed to see the work at first hand.

The work is fantastic and a really good use of the money that developers have to put back into the community as part of the planning process. I look forward to this work continuing in the

future in all areas of the county.

This investment certainly pays off and while visiting one play area, I was able to talk with a mother and grandmother whose family were enjoying the new facilities. They made clear to me just how great an impact having convenient, attractive and safe places for children to play has on families.

SPECIAL PLACE

Continuing on this theme, I am hopeful that we will also be successful in attracting new investment and new partners and keeping up the impetus of redevelopment at both Nell's Point and the parcel of land near to the Pumphouse, which are both currently being marketed.

All of these successes illustrated to me what a truly special place we live in and how proud we should be as residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Regrettably, some, for their own means, both politically and otherwise, continue to talk it down, but we should not let those people convince us otherwise.

I make this point about working in partnership because it is

something we must do at a time when (as I have mentioned before) the Vale Council's budgetary constraints are placing an unprecedented strain on the organisation.

Indeed, over the next three years we must make savings of £25million, while also meeting the ever increasing demand for our services.

Therefore, to meet those challenges we will need to work with other groups and organisations to find new ways of delivering our services and managing our assets, coupled with our continued restructuring of the organisation.

This year, as well as working differently, we have again continued with efficiency and cost savings, by reducing the number of councillors receiving special allowances and reduced the cost of senior management as a key part of making these savings. Efficiencies alone, however, will not save enough.

Despite the unprecedented challenges that we are navigating, I am pleased to be able to end this column by announcing that our success in managing our decreasing resources prudently enables us to continue to offer two

financial relief schemes that we know are greatly valued by those that receive them.

In the last three years, we have helped older people in the Vale cope with the impact that central government's austerity agenda has had on their finances.

I am very pleased to be able to say that all Vale residents over 70 who are not in receipt of the council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) and all those over 60 who are in receipt of an award under the scheme, will continue to receive council tax support of up to £40 this year, should they apply for it. In addition to this, we will also be continuing to provide financial relief to small businesses in the Vale through our rate relief scheme.

The continued development of sustainable and vibrant town centres is a key objective for the Council and the retail rate relief, which can be worth as much as £1,500 towards a business' non-domestic rate net liability, is just one of the ways in which we are supporting local retailers.

I hope that we can continue to do so in the future.

'MADDI'S BALL' AT THE VALE HOTEL WILL RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR DIABETES RESEARCH

'Maddi's Masquerade Ball' for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, is to be hosted at the Vale Hotel on Friday, October 30.

Maddi's mother Emma Loyns, from Bridgend, hopes the event will raise awareness of young people coping with the disease.

Emma told The GEM: "I am the proud mummy to two beautiful daughters. My eldest daughter, Maddison, has just turned eight years old. Just after her sixth birthday, on St David's Day 2013, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

"Although people tend to be aware of type 2 diabetes there is not much understanding and awareness of type 1 which is an auto-immune deficiency that causes the body to attack its own insulin-producing cells.

"Effectively it means she has a broken pancreas. There is currently no cure for type 1 diabetes so this diagnosis had a massive

impact on all our lives." Emma explained that for a young girl, it means a lot of disruption and a restricted lifestyle.

"Maddison currently uses an insulin pump to control her diabetes. She is connected to the pump 24/7 and endures daily finger pricks, cannula changes, hypos and more recently she has been using a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) that measures her blood sugar patterns constantly.

"As Maddison is dependent on so much technology to keep her alive she has to have one-to-one tuition in school and finds visiting friends near impossible unless she has someone with her who is trained in diabetes management.

"This also means she cannot stay with relatives or sleep over. Maddison has amazed us all with her attitude towards the condition.

"She has ups and downs as expected but on the whole she deals with it positively. Above all she has hope, which is something we have fully embraced as a family. We have hope for the future and hope for a cure."

After Maddison's diagnosis, Emma began to support diabetes charities.

"JDRF is a relatively small charity but is specifically for research into curing type 1 diabetes.

"So much has already been achieved by JDRF and the local branch has been particularly supportive.

"I started running 18 months ago to raise money and most recently completed the Cardiff half marathon, collecting sponsorship for JDRF.

"Maddison has started to get involved in raising money for JDRF too and ran the Cardiff Bay 2k with her sister and raised £156."

Emma decided she wanted to do something more ambitious in terms of fundraising.

"This year I have decided to hold an event at which we can all enjoy a lovely evening while raising lots of money for JDRF. It benefits all type 1 diabetics and their families."

Maddi's Masquerade Ball will take place on Friday, October 30 at the Vale Hotel. The ball



Maddison (aged eight) and Lillia Loyns (aged six) with JDRF representative Danielle Angell, presenting their cheque following their sponsored 2k at Cardiff Bay in 2015.

starts at 7pm with a 'welcome' cocktail followed by a three course meal.

There will be a band and entertainment throughout the evening including a 'pre-auction' website and live auction on the night. Tickets cost £45 and tables of 10 are available.

Emma said: "We

would love to see support from the local community at this event. There will be a Halloween theme with a 'black tie and masks' dress code."

To book tickets and for more information, contact Emma on 07901 020 302; or at the email address: emmalyns@icloud.com.



Home at last! Owen was welcomed back to Rhoose by friends, family and RAF St Athan Voluntary Brass Band. IMAGE by SANDRA COOPER

Owen completes round Wales trek for school in Fiji

ON July 1, Owen Doel from Rhoose began a 1,024 mile trek round Wales to raise funds for a school in Fiji for underprivileged children.

On Tuesday afternoon August 25, he arrived back in Rhoose a little foot-weary, but greeted by friends, family and the RAF St Athan Voluntary Brass Band.

Owen was raising funds for Global Vision International Charitable Trust. "All the money that I raise will be used to fund a purpose built vocational training centre in the remote district of Dawasamu in Fiji. Doel.

"By building a training centre, we can create an environment where young Fijians can learn new skills that will strengthen their communities and further their opportunities.

"In turn, this will assist the community in maintain their traditional way of life whilst finding ways to make it more sustainable in the future."

He arrived home in fine fettle, though suffering from tendonitis!

Owen has raised £5,766 so far, but his aim is to reach a target of £10,000. If you would like to donate, go to <https://www.justgiving.com/Owen-Doel>.

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Brain injury team in line for award



The traumatic brain injury service team:

Top row – Dr Zoe Fisher (clinical psychologist), Helen Hughes (occupational therapist) and Dr Tanya Edmonds (consultant clinical neuropsychologist).

Bottom row – Hannah Davies (speech and language therapist) and Helen Bankhead (occupational therapist).



Clinical psychologist Dr Zoe Fisher with Steve Godbear.

A TEAM dedicated to helping people rebuild lives devastated by head injuries has been shortlisted for a national award.

ABMU's traumatic brain injury service has teamed up with community organisations to offer placements on projects ranging from writing songs to building an eco-centre.

Now the service has been shortlisted for specialist healthcare publication HSI's 2015 awards.

The team helps rehabilitate people with moderate to severe brain injuries caused by trauma such as assaults, car accidents and falls.

Clinical psychologist Dr Zoe Fisher said: "Traumatic brain injury affects all aspects of a person's life, from their thinking skills and personality to their emotions and their physical abilities.

"The effects of brain injury can be permanent, and people's lives can change beyond recognition overnight.

"Traumatic brain injury is called the hidden disability

because people can look perfectly fine but it affects their thinking skills and emotions.

"They can feel very angry when trivial things happen and cannot control it because that part of their brain has been damaged.

"People often lose friends, lose their jobs. Relationships can break down. They cannot always take part in social events. Their role in family and society can change – their whole identity can change."

Specialist speech and language therapist Hannah Davies said: "Our patients come from all walks of life – we have had builders, mechanics, doctors, nurses and professors.

"Sometimes they cannot go back to work so we have to find something else for them, otherwise they can become isolated and withdrawn from society.

"We use these community projects to give meaning back to their lives. We try to help people rebuild their lives. We look at what their strengths are and find out what drives them as a person.

"We help them get their sense of identity back, sometimes in a different way but still in a way that is true to who they are."

The team has now been shortlisted in the Value and Improvement in Specialist Services category of the HSI awards.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in London next month.

Among the many people the team has helped are Steve Godbear and Lydia Bowser, who have both been involved in the Down to Earth project.

Two years ago Steve, aged 31, was out celebrating his birthday in his home city of Swansea when he was the victim of an unprovoked attack.

He said: "I can remember standing there with a drink in my hand and then I was in hospital. Now my memory is terrible. I was classed as disabled. I lost my job and lost my speech, though I got that back. My life was turned upside down.

"The work the team does is incredible. If it wasn't for them I don't know where I would be now.

Lydia, a former Wales organiser with the University and College University Lecturers' Union, had head injuries in an accidental fall at her Bridgend home seven years ago.

The effects include chronic migraines and pain, cognitive

disability, long-term and short-term memory loss and problems with concentration. Lydia has been seeing the TBI team as part of her ongoing rehabilitation.

As well as working on the Down to Earth project, she joins Dr Fisher and rehabilitation medicine consultant Dr David Abankwa when they visit medical students so she can talk about her experiences.

Lydia (36) said: "I really wanted to go back to work. My

employers were amazing. They kept my job open for three years but sadly it wasn't to be.

That was one of the hardest things I have ever had to deal with, but working with the team helps you lead a normal life.

"The doctors and consultants on the ward save lives but we wouldn't have a life without the TBI team.

"We'd be stuck indoors staring at the same four walls all the time."



Lydia Bowser.

SUMMER SAILINGS. PENARTH.



CLEVEDON & WEST SOMERSET STEAM RAILWAY Friday 28 August. Depart 9am – return 9pm* * Passengers just wishing to visit Clevedon return to Penarth aboard Balmoral arriving back at 3.30pm. Enjoy a cruise across the Channel to Clevedon with time ashore or board coaches for a scenic drive to join the famous West Somerset Railway for one of the longest steam train rides in the country – arriving at Minehead with time to explore before re-boarding Balmoral for the cruise home. A great day out for all the family! Fares to Clevedon: £15 Seniors: £13 Child: £7.50 Family: £40. Steam Railway & Full Cruise: £46 Child: £23 Family: £125

AFTERNOON CRUISE TO MINEHEAD Friday 28 August. Depart 3.30pm – Return 9pm. Enjoy an afternoon cruise to visit the bustling seaside resort of Minehead with two hours ashore to look around. Fare: £25 Seniors: £23 Child: £12.50 Family: £69.

EXMOOR COAST CRUISE TO GLORIOUS ILFRACOMBE & BIDEFORD BAY Saturday 29 August. Depart 10am – Return 8pm. Enjoy a delightful scenic cruise along the Exmoor coast to the Victorian seaside resort of Ilfracombe with over 4 hours ashore to explore this fascinating resort or stay aboard for the full cruise to scenic Bideford Bay. Fares to Ilfracombe Adults £33. Child £16.50. Family Ticket £89. Full Cruise £36. Child £18. Family Ticket £97.

CLEVEDON & HOLM ISLANDS CRUISE Sunday 30th August. Depart 11am-6.15pm Cross the Channel to Clevedon before cruising round the mysterious Holm Islands. Fares to Clevedon: £15 Child: £7.50 Family: £40. Full cruise: £23 Child: £11.50 Family: £65

SAIL AWAY TO GLORIOUS ILFRACOMBE & EXMOOR COAST! Tuesday 1st September. Depart 10.30am – Return 9pm* * Coach return to Penarth from Porthcawl. Sunday 13th September. Depart 10am- 7.45pm. Wednesday 16th September. Depart 10.30am -7pm. Join us aboard Balmoral to cruise to the delightful seaside town of Ilfracombe with plenty to enjoy for parents and children with plenty of time ashore to explore! Alternatively, continue cruising along the scenic Exmoor coast with a short stop in Ilfracombe before your return. Fare to Ilfracombe: £33 Senior: £31* Child: £16.50 Family: £89. Full day cruise: £36 Senior: £34* Child £18 Family: £97. ** Senior fare weekdays only

MORNING CHANNEL CRUISE Friday 18 September. Depart 10.15 – Return 1pm. Enjoy a morning cruise across the Bristol Channel to Clevedon taking in the scenery (non landing) - & why not enjoy breakfast aboard? £15 Seniors £13 Child £7.50 Family Ticket £40.

CLEVEDON & SPECTACULAR WELSH HERITAGE COAST & HOLM ISLANDS CRUISE Friday 18 September. Depart 1pm – Return 7.45pm. Enjoy an afternoon ashore at the Victorian seaside resort of Clevedon or stay aboard for the superb scenery of the Welsh Heritage Coast and cruise around the mystical Holm Islands. Fares to Clevedon £15 Seniors £13 Child £7.50 Family Ticket £40. Full Cruise £21 Seniors £19 Children £10.50 Family Ticket £57

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Ysgol Bro Morgannwg students are on top form as GCSE results are revealed



Caleb Darwin (Wenvoe) 11A* 1A Distinction in additional maths, Cerys Evans (Llantwit Major); Carys Lewis (St Donats) 6A* 3A 2B Merit in additional maths.



ABOVE: Aled George (Penarth) 8A* 3A 1B Distinction in additional maths and Rhodri Davies (Sully) 6A* 3A 3B Distinction in additional maths.



Cerys Evans (Llantwit Major) 4A* 8A, Merit in additional maths and Niamh Cooper.



Niamh Cooper with sister Manon Cooper who received her A-Level results last week.

AFTER a year full of emotion at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, it is pleasing to celebrate very encouraging GCSE results.

This follows an excellent set of A-level results last week, and the school is proud of the efforts of the staff and pupils during a challenging and difficult time. This is proof of the strength of the collegiality at the school.

The outstanding results built on the success of last year's cohort with 98 per cent of the pupils attaining five A* – C in GCSE or equivalent qualifications. Most notably, a fantastic 21 per cent of the cohort (15 girls and 15 boys) achieved five or more A*/A grades, including maths and English or Welsh and is testimony to the endeavours of the departments.

78 per cent of all grades awarded were A* – C, which is significantly higher than the national percentage. We are extremely pleased that every pupil will leave the school this year with a qualification. Pupils of all abilities have succeeded and deserve to celebrate their success.

Several pupils excelled this year and among the stars were Lois Aled, Niamh Cooper, Elen Dafydd, Nia Fenn, Caleb Darwin and Aled George. Between the six of them, they achieved 68 A* grades and four A grades.

Staff and parents are delighted to be able to celebrate with all pupils who have fulfilled their potential and look forward to welcoming them back to the sixth form where they can further build on this firm foundation for their future studies. Congratulations!

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Mae'r canlyniadau yn adeiladu ar sylfaen a osodwyd mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol, gyda 98% o'r garfan yn llwyddo i ennill 5 gradd A* – C mewn pynciau TGAU neu gymwysterau cyfwerth.

Ymfalchiwn yn y ffaith bod 21% o'r garfan (15 merch a 15 bachgen) wedi llwyddo i ennill pum neu fwy o raddau A*/A gan gynnwys mathemateg a Saesneg neu Gymraeg sy'n dysti holl ymdrechion yr adranau. Yn ogystal, roedd 78% o'r graddau yn A* – C, yn sylweddol uwch na'r gyfradd genedlaethol.

Testun balchder i ni fel ysgol yw bod pob un disgybl yn gadael â chymhwysr. Mae disgyblion o bob gallu wedi llwyddo ac maent yn haeddu datlu eu cyflawniad.

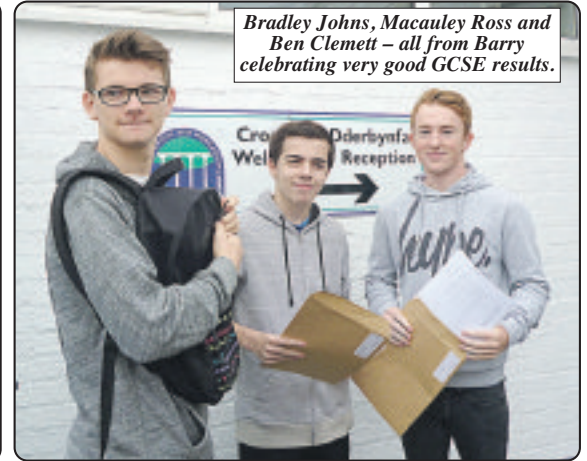
Serennodd nifer o ddisgyblion eleni ac ymhlith y sêr roedd Lois Aled, Niamh Cooper, Elen Dafydd, Nia Fenn, Caleb Darwin ac Aled George. Rhwyngddynt llwyddodd y chwech yma yn unig i ennill 68 gradd A* a 4 gradd A.

Dathlwn fel staff a rhieni gyda'r holl ddisgyblion sydd wedi gwreiddio eu potensial ac edrychwn ymlaen i'w gweld yn datblygu ymhellach fel aelodau o'n chweched dosbarth. Llonyfarchiadau gwresog i chi gyd!

ED



Rebecca Nicholson from Barry and family.



Bradley Johns, Macauley Ross and Ben Clemett – all from Barry celebrating very good GCSE results.



Llinos Goodland – Barry.



Ewan O'Sullivan – Barry – 2A* 8A 2B Distinction in additional maths.



Kelsea Peterson – Barry – 6A* 5A 2B Merit in additional maths.



Nia Fenn, Cowbridge – 12A*s and Distinction in additional maths.



Caleb Darwin and family.

Concorde: the 'astonishing story'

BRIDGEND man Morien Bedford Morgan was a deputy director of the RAE in Farnborough who led the team that designed Concorde, which was first begun nearly 60 years ago, in 1956.

Jonathan Glancey's new book, *Concorde*, is the story of that astonishing project – although it last flew in 2003 it won the BBC Great British Design Quest in 2006, beating the Tube map, the Sergeant Pepper's album cover, the mini-skirt and even the Spitfire. And yet only 20 Concorde aircraft were ever produced, and only 14 flew in fare-paying service.

In *Concorde*, Jonathan Glancey tells anew the story of this magnificent and hugely popular aircraft, from the moment Captain Chuck Yeager first broke the sound barrier in 1947, through to the airliner's last commercial flight.

Guide Dogs Cymru volunteers needed

GUIDE DOGS Cymru is seeking volunteers to act as sighted guides in the area. Successful applicants will receive specialist training and a qualification that can be added to a CV.

As part of a scheme entitled My Guide, trained volunteers are matched with people who are blind or partially sighted, in order to help them reach

their mobility goal.

This could be as simple as walking to the shops or a social club, or practising routes they have learnt with their rehabilitation officer. The aim is to increase mobility, confidence and independence.

Would-be volunteers must be over 18. To find out more, ring Ian Coxon on 07881 269572 or email Ian.Coxon@guidedogs.org.uk

• FULL SELECTION OF BBQ MEAT PACKS • BACON • SAUSAGES • CHOPS • STEAKS • MARINATED MEATS • CHICKEN • PORK • BEEF • ETC •

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SUPERSTORE** OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC & TRADE**VFM's
MIXED MEATS
HAMPER****£25**
RRP £50

Contents: 4x Chicken Fillets,
4x Pork Steaks, 4x VFM Beefburgers,
2x Sirloin Steaks, 6x Welsh Faggots,
450g Minced Beef Pack, 4x Chinese
Chicken Portions, 4x BBQ Flavour
Chicken Portions and 2x 8oz
Gammon Steaks.

**PLUS
A FREE
BREAKFAST
PACK**

8x VFM Pork Sausages,
6x Back Bacon Rashers,
6x Local Eggs,
a ring of Black Pudding,
a pack of Hash Browns
& a tin of Baked Beans

Offers valid subject to availability till Sunday, 20th September 2015

**VFM's
BARBEQUE
HAMPER****£25**
RRP £50

Contents: 12x Jumbo Sausages,
4x VFM Beefburgers, 8x American
Burgers, 10x Chinese Drumsticks,
10x Bar-B-Q flavour Drumsticks,
4x Peppered Pork Steaks,
4x Hot & Spicy Pork Steaks,
6x Minty Lamb Grill Steaks,
6x Flavoured Meaty Grill Steaks,
1/2 kilo Chinese Pork Ribs

**FREE
EXTRAS**

12x Hot Dog Rolls,
8x Large Burger Buns,
500ml Barbeque Sauce
1.5litre of Pepsi

Offers valid subject to availability till Sunday, 20th September 2015

**NEW £40 LOW FAT MEAT HAMPER
WITH FREE EXTRAS!**

What you get... 16 Chicken Breast Fillets, 4 Rump
Steaks, 600g Turkey Breast Steaks, 2x 400g Extra
Lean Minced Beef (90% lean), 4x Pork Steaks, 8x
Low Fat Pork Sausages (90% Lean) & 12 Fresh Eggs.

PLUS FREE WITH THIS HAMPER...

8x Low Fat Chicken & Garlic Sausages, 4x Chicken
Tikka Kebabs, & 2x Piri Piri Chicken Breast Fillets.

Offers valid subject to availability till Sunday, 20th September 2015



MEAT HAMPERS now being
delivered throughout the Vale...
Call 01446 721206 to order
NOW OPEN LATER...
8.30am-6pm Monday - Saturday
and 9am-3pm Sundays.

**UNIT 5, PALMERSVALE BUSINESS
CENTRE, PALMERSTON ROAD, BARRY
CF63 2XA. 01446 721206.**
HOW TO FIND US...

Turn at traffic lights at Dow Corning and head up
Palmerston Road, turn left just before Waitrose, then
follow the yellow VFM signs. Set your sat nav to CF63 2XA.

**EXTRA FREE GIFT FOR GEM
READERS WHEN YOU BUY
A HAMPER INSTORE**

Choose a pack of 8x VFM
BUTCHERS SAUSAGES worth £2.50
on production of this coupon.

Ends Sunday, 20th September 2015

• GROCERIES • FROZEN VEGETABLES • FISH • DESSERTS • READY MEALS • GROCERIES • FROZEN VEGETABLES • FISH • DESSERTS •

• LARGE PACKS AVAILABLE FOR HOME FREEZING • CHICKEN • MARINATED MEATS •

• LARGE PACKS AVAILABLE FOR HOME FREEZING • MARINATED MEATS • CHICKEN • LARGE PACKS AVAILABLE FOR HOME FREEZING • MARINATED MEATS • CHICKEN •

Visit Dyffryn Gardens for free next month...

DYFFRYN GARDENS and Tredegar House are throwing open their doors for free on September 12 and 13, when the National Trust properties take part in Open Doors Wales, to show off their houses and gardens.

Organised by Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, Open Doors offers both local people and visitors alike the chance to explore the hidden treasures of Wales's culture and history for free.

It's a great opportunity to visit some local places that you may never have visited before.

Dyffryn will show off their green initiatives and reveal ways to go green at home to look after the environment as well as energy bills. Have a go at the green trails in the garden and visit the Centre for Sustainable Energy's stand.

The kitchen garden produce will have been harvested for visitors to taste some zero-mile home grown Dyffryn

produce in the tea rooms.

At Tredegar House there will be traditional games in the gardens, crafts and trails. Meet the Rhonda lace makers on Saturday (12pm-3pm) for demonstrations of traditional techniques.

Kate Simons, Visitor Experience Manager at Dyffryn, said: "Open Doors Wales is a great opportunity to visit some of those places on your doorstep that you may never have visited. Both Dyffryn and Tredegar will have lots to keep you entertained as well as exploring both their houses and gardens."

"Dyffryn and Tredegar are only 30 minutes apart on the M4, so you can visit both in a day if you're feeling energetic, or you can take some time to sit back and relax and visit one on each day."

Dyffryn will be open from 10am to 6pm with last entry at 5pm. Tredegar House will be open from 11am to 5pm with last entry at 4pm. For more information on opening times and admission please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens and www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house.

What's on - NEWS IN BRIEF

Age Connects coffee morning AGE Connects Good Neighbours is holding a coffee morning with councillors and the Mayor in the Llantian Hall, Llantwit Major, on September 2, 10am-12.30pm, with raffle and craft stalls.

If you have wondered what Age Connects can offer you or a family member, come along and find out.

Computer advice FREE digital and computer advice at Cowbridge Library every Friday, 2pm - 5pm. No booking necessary, just drop in.

Free tax advice AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale will run a free tax advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, September 7 from 9.30am-11.30am. No appointment needed; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Shadows Club meeting THE next South Wales Shadows Club meeting is on September 8 at FREE digital and computer advice at Cowbridge Library every Friday, 2pm - 5pm. No booking necessary, just drop in.

Age Positive Week I'M pleased to announce that Sunday, September 27 to Sunday, October 4 will be Age Cymru's second Age Positive Week, our national celebration of all that is positive about ageing and the contribution older people make to our communities.

We believe this celebration is vital to counter the negative stereotyping of older people and the ageism that we all too often see, hear or experience in society. Being 'age positive' is a vital part of Age Cymru's vision to create an age-friendly Wales. We want the Welsh public to get involved in Age Positive Week by organising tea parties to day trips, concerts to dance classes, school assemblies and forum meetings. For an information pack about Age Cymru's Age Positive Week, contact 02920 431555 or email agepositive@agecymru.org.uk. Ian Thomas, Cardiff. (Chief Executive, Age Cymru)



Take the opportunity to bring a family together

IN a world that is getting increasingly hectic, making time for family life is more and more difficult.

The days of meals around the dining room table in the evening are a distant memory, as modern-day family members are either watching different TV programmes or out doing their own thing.

It is an odd paradox that, as TV programmes featuring cooking, baking, and barbecue are proliferating, the sales of microwave meals are still buoyant.

As food guru Prue Leith recently said, people read all the cookbooks but then order in pizza.

These days, Sunday is probably the only day with a realistic chance of getting the family together, and even Sunday has pitfalls, now that Premier League football games kick off at all sorts of dark times!

So, if Sunday is the day for a family get-together, do you

eat out or eat in?

Well, no one can deny that eating in has certain advantages - if you ignore the stresses and strains on the chef!

(Notice the gender neutral term - The Gem isn't going to perpetuate any outmoded stereotypes here).

Whoever that cook may be, it will be a stressful morning for him/her - preparing the food, timing the cooking of the various ingredients, and snapping at family members when they wander into the kitchen, getting in the way.

It is so much more civilised to take the stress out of the day and head out to eat at one of the many restaurants or pubs in the Vale.

The advantage of keen competition is that standards have to be kept high, and businesses have responded to this.

The days when you felt that your Sunday lunch had been cooked on Saturday are, mercifully, long gone.

Increasingly,

establishments offer a wide choice on a Sunday, and if the traditional meat and two/three/four veg are not to your taste, there will be other tempting options available instead.

Another old tradition that is, thankfully, long gone is the old-fashioned unwelcoming attitude to children.

Nowadays, there is no shortage of places where children are well-catered for - not just in portion size, but in terms of play areas and items to keep their attention.

You can put a price on cooking your own Sunday lunch, and then you can compare the cost of eating out, but can you really put a price on the sense of wellbeing that comes from being freed from preparing the meal?

Let someone else take the strain, and instead relax with your chosen aperitif and enjoy your meal!

PHILIP IRWIN

Three Horseshoes Country Inn MOULTON, Nr BARRY 01446 710428 www.3horseshoespub.com

Traditional Sunday Lunch with locally sourced meats Served all day from 12 onwards
Adults £9.50 Children £5.00
Choice of 5 meats & fresh vegetables
Combination Roast (2 meats) £10.95
Children's meals, vegetarian options & normal menu
Outdoor & indoor children's play area
Beer garden & large car park

The FONTYGARY INN

BANK HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 28th August **PAIGE KENZIE**
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Saturday 29th August **THE SHRIEKING VIOLETS**

Children's MEAL DEALS available
3 Course LUNCH Mon-Sat Only £9.95
BREAKFAST Served Saturday & Sunday 10am-12noon
Open all day FOR FOOD over the holiday period. Sunday until 5pm.
QUIZ Every Wednesday from 8.30pm. Bring your smartphone or tablet to join in. Large Beer Garden & Children's Play Area
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Traditional Sunday Lunch Served 12-4pm
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www.thestarinnwick.co.uk

THE SIX BELLS Penmark
Village Pub & Restaurant
TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST
1 Course £8.95 • 2 Courses £11.95
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Choice of 3 meats & fresh vegetables
Fish & Vegetarian options • Children's Menu
Beer Garden for Alfresco Dining • Booking Essential
All our meats are sourced from local farms
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www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk

NEWLY REFURBISHED

THE TYNEWYDD INN

Dave & Emily welcome you!

'SKITTLE ALLEY & DARTS make for a modern, community pub with free wi-Fi available. FOOD is served from midday every day with great value traditional favourites, HOMEMADE SUNDAY ROASTS and some FABULOUS DEALS on our steak dishes'.

CURRY and a PINT for £7.50 all day Wednesday	REAL PUB FAVOURITES 2 x 8oz RUMP STEAKS for £15 Monday to Thursday	LIVE Music EVERY FRIDAY DISCO & KARAOKE every 1st & 2nd Saturday of the month
QUIZ Night? EVERY SUNDAY 8PM	AVAILABLE FOR Family occasions WITH BUFFETS	2 MEALS for £10 Available all day Monday - Friday. See main menu for full details

Open every day. Food served from 12 noon.
01446 407767
103 Tynwydd Rd, Barry CF62 8BB
Email: Tynwydd@sabrain.com

Out and About with The GEM

Mis-firing jokes and tired format means that this Vacation should be passed-up

THE family holiday has often been the source of mirth for films, but perhaps the most famous are the *National Lampoon's* ... *Vacation* series, which saw Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo and the Griswold family embark on trips that very often ended up in comedic disaster.

In a world of going back to the well, it's not surprising that this series has been 'reimagined' for 21st century audiences, and so we get a sequel/soft reboot in *Vacation*.

The Griswold kids are all grown up, and Rusty (Ed Helms) is on the verge of a midlife crisis.

He packs up his wife Debbie (Christina Applegate) and their kids James and Kevin (Skyler Gisondo and Steele Stebbins) to embark on the same rites of passage trip he went on as a child – to Wally

World. However, as you might expect, the trip doesn't exactly go as planned...

There has been a trend recently of trailers revealing far too much to the viewer; see how *Terminator: Genisys*' central reveal was used as a marketing tool as an example. The same often tends to apply to comedies – how often have you walked out of a film complaining that the best jokes were all in the trailer?

Sadly, it's the marketing bods to blame yet again with *Vacation*, a film that, while including 85 per cent of its jokes within the trailer, also suffers from the cardinal sin of being amusing yet not funny enough.

It's a film that feels lazily scripted, its gags a veritable hit and miss feast that sees the odd one land but many of them fall by the wayside. You start questioning just why they thought that joke would be funny in the first place.

It runs the gamut from gags about familial



by GARETH JAMIESON

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relationships and the pressures put on you by your parents/children/siblings (delete where applicable), to 'jokes' about the illegal peccadillos of truck drivers and everywhere in between. The episodic nature of a road movie, which is what *Vacation* is ostensibly, means that the story feels bitty, but there's no real through line to find the comedic pulse.

There are humorous moments that work (the

Griswolds' choice of vehicle to get them to Wally World is several jokes in one vehicle, the relationship between the two brothers) but it's comedy that lacks a distinctive voice or personality; they feel like jokes designed by committee in order to appeal to as much of the demographic this film is intended for as possible.

The cast gamely fight their way through the molasses and try their best with the material they're given.

Ed Helms' natural style as an ordinary man twisted into extraordinary circumstances, doesn't quite gel with the character of Rusty, who is a misguided, but well-intentioned, fool, while Christina Applegate is capable of more than just one set-piece involving a college drinking game.

There is some pleasure to be mined from the fraternal relationship between the equally magnificently monikered Skyler Gisondo and Steele Stebbins, while extended cameos range from strong – Chris

Hemsworth (easily the best thing here in his small screen time) and Leslie Mann – to disappointing – Ron Livingston, Charlie Day.

Of course, the film isn't helped by loading the promotional material with the majority of the jokes in the film, but even then *Vacation* feels like a lacklustre and lazy cash-in on the goodwill of a moribund franchise like *National Lampoon* (two words, incidentally, that don't feature on any of the marketing material), and a mediocre comedy in its own right.

No matter how badly you need some rest and relaxation, this is one *Vacation* that isn't worth going on!

VERDICT – A disappointing film that has brief moments of laugh out loud humour but too often hits and misses. *Vacation* is a prime example of a studio comedy that spreads its comedy too thin and fails to work. The likeable cast try, but ultimately can't offer anything exciting for you to savour. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Horrible Bosses* (2011), *National Lampoon's Vacation* (1983).

All the fun of Dinas Powys village show

DINAS POWYS village show will be held on Saturday, September 5, at the Parish Halls and Gardens.

Lots of interest has been shown in the show with The GEM since it has been publicising it over the years.

With over 110 classes catering for all ages, and with a £3 cash prize for first place in each class, it is a very popular occasion and attracts entries from all over the Vale.

Even if you do not wish to enter the competitions, there will be plenty going on during the afternoon.

The show is a fun few hours, a chance to meet up with family and friends and meet new ones.

The cost of entry is 50p for adults and is free for children under 16. As usual there will be an excellent raffle.

There will be music from the Eucemical Seven, two Punch and Judy shows, free face painting and balloon modelling and the excellent Women's Institute teas – all this on

top of the many items in all the classes to see and admire, plus a free bouncy castle, weather permitting of course.

There will also be the popular model railway track and other mechanical attractions set out in the garden as well as several community gazebos.

The new revised edition of the popular booklet *Around Dinas Powys*, first published in 1993, written by the popular walks leader, the late George Thomas, and beautifully illustrated by the late Don Offord, will be on sale for the first time at the show, priced £3.50.

The 'Village Trail' within the booklet has been updated as have the five walks in the original edition with new maps.

Should you require more information, contact me on 029 2051 3274 or valharry@talktalk.net.

VAL HARTREY, Show Chairman

National Gardens Scheme

BORDERVALE Plants, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen, Cowbridge, CF71 7SX opens for the National Gardens Scheme on Tuesday, September 1 (10am – 5pm). Admission £3, child free.

Within mature woodland valley (semi-tamed), with stream and bog garden, extensive mixed borders; mini wild flower meadow, providing diverse wildlife habitats. Children must be supervised.

TAX ADVICE

THE next monthly surgery to offer free, confidential and professional help to those with income tax queries or problems will be held at Pencoed Library on September 15.

A surgery will also be held at Port Talbot Age Cymru offices on September 17 and later in the month at the CAB offices Bridgend.

To book an appointment for any of these surgeries telephone our helpline on 0845 6013321.

Lose weight, get fit, and learn a new skill...

COME dancing with Steve and Lynne – (undefeated Welsh Open Latin American Champions and Wales' representatives in Belgium, New Zealand, Italy and Spain), and have a ball!

Steve and Lynne have been teaching in Cardiff, Penarth and Barry for 11 years and are "loving every minute".

They are IDTA professionally-qualified teachers. The classes are "great fun, very vibrant; and as well as burning up loads of calories, losing weight and getting fit, everyone learns a new skill..."

"Come along and give it a go – bring your friends as well – our classes are tailor-made for beginners (and for people with two left

feet!) and we have pupils of all ages.

"All former pupils are most welcome, and there's no need to book. Just pay as you go! Nothing to pay in advance – and no registration fee.

"If you prefer to book your place, you can do it online on our web-site – and then your place is secured: www.salsachacha.com

"Or, you can just come along on the night, 10 minutes before the class starts, to register.

Check the advertisement below for our new classes starting in SEPTEMBER.

So it's up to you – drag yourself away from the telly – get some exercise, keep fit, and join in with us all.

See you in SEPTEMBER!

Ballroom! Latin! Salsa!

COME DANCING with STEVE AND LYNNE (2 qualified I.D.T.A teachers) at their **NEW BEGINNERS CLASSES** in **BALLROOM/LATIN/SALSA** at:

HIGHLIGHT PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BARRY (behind Tesco's) every THURSDAY, starting SEPTEMBER 10th, 8.30-9.30pm (Intermediate 7.30-8.30pm). Also **NEW BEGINNERS** at: **HIGHFIELDS CHURCH CENTRE, MONTHERMER ROAD, CATHAYS, CARDIFF** every TUESDAY, starting SEPTEMBER 8th, 6.30-7.30pm.

Learn to Salsa, Jive, Tango, Waltz, Cha-cha, Samba, Quickstep, Paso Doble, Merengue, Rumba, Foxtrot! Check Web for more info and to book your place:-

www.salsachacha.com
Or just come along on the night, bring friends to our VIBRANT, fun and friendly classes and get fit! Just £6.00
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Tel: 02920 758708 or 07866 551346
GREAT FUN AND EXERCISE - GET FIT - FAST !!!

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★ **PORKERRY ENTERTAINMENT**
Saturday 29th August
JO DELGADO
Superb Female Vocal Entertainer

★★★
Sunday 30th August
IAIN SCOTT
Top Class Vocal Entertainer

★★★
Saturday 5th September
JHEENA
Knockout Female Vocal Entertainer

★★★
Every Thursday is
FREE QUIZ NIGHT
Curry & a Pint £5.95

★★★
KARAOKE Every Friday
BINGO Every Saturday

★ **Traditional SUNDAY LUNCHES**
only £6.95
Selection of meats & fresh vegetables

★ **New Chef** ★
at Ocean Lounge serving homemade Meals & Desserts. Served Thurs, Fri & Sat evenings & Sunday Lunch.

★ **CAR BOOT SALE** ★
Every Sunday
Sellers in 12.30pm. Buyers 1pm.
Porthkerry Leisure Park, Rhose CF62 3ZP
(01446) 710362/711538
Open: Friday 7pm - 12pm.
Saturday 12 noon - 4pm & 7pm - midnight.
Sunday 12 noon - 4pm.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D893.

● £2,000: 524357.
● The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.

● £10: 7 8 2 0 6 9 , 784490, 877573, 227551, 237173, 291565, 881024.

NANTGARW CHINAWORKS MUSEUM ANTIQUES FAIR
Monday 31st August 10.00am - 5.00pm
at Nantgarw House Nr Taffs Well (A470 Treforest turnoff)
All proceeds to Nantgarw Chinaworks Trust
Entrance Fee £1.50
Refreshments Available
Charity No. 1121608

973428, 905954, 662760, 160794, 132225, 209327, 356308, 721329, 479815, 568894, 258028, 255607, 544172, 634849.
● £5: 707137, 794791, 378220, 540379, 388854, 354070, 616141, 325646, 100827, 791369, 866940, 124974, 301067, 105255, 761526, 140053, 187853, 916336, 817479, 621491, 722753, 441093, 532649, 271095, 587464, 736794, 178311, 898868, 617911, 411280, 289529, 197853, 686060, 562934, 230816, 858923, 893719, 487304, 357053, 422712, 145325, 349894, 178366, 616084, 332643, 684519, 372566, 928550, 368395, 465539, 629371, 276769, 612647, 178558, 308911, 509548, 832847, 000257, 001393.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

CHRISTINE OSBORNE YOGA CLASSES

Start again Wednesday September 2nd, 7pm at Pioneer Hall, Beryl Rd, Barry.
THE MONDAY CLASS STARTS SEPTEMBER 8TH
My new telephone number is 01446 624782

Up to 800 stands inside / outside Builth Wells Antiques Fair

The Antiques Fair of Wales
THE ROYAL SHOWGROUND LD2 3SY
Sat 5th & Sun 6th September
10am-5pm admission £5. Early entry Sat 8.30am £10

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18th & 19th Century Furniture - Dressers, Desks, Bookcases - Wardrobes - Tables - Chairs - Longcase and Bracket Clocks - Silver Items, Garden Furniture. Porcelain - Worcester, Derby, Minton, Moorcroft, Doulton, Oriental etc.

Toys, Glass, Linen, Textiles, Fine Paintings by Leading Artists. Medals - Militaria, Stamps, Postcards, Prime Coins and tens of thousands of collectables.

Disabled facilities • Restaurants • Dogs Welcome
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Geraint Thomas, Val Hartrey and Cai Thomas outside the historic Star inn.

Walking book has now been revised...

THE popular book *Around Old Dinas Powys*, written by George Thomas with beautiful drawings by Don Offord, has now been revised.

It will be launched at the Dinas Powys village show on Saturday, September 5 at Parish and Lee Halls, Britway Road.

The first edition of the book was published in 1993 by the then Dinas Powys Civic Trust; the new edition updates the maps and route descriptions.

The local five walks include a route starting from the Millfields, taking in the 13th century St Michael and All Angels Church in Michaelston village, and returning to walk back over an old stone bridge and continuing through the picturesque Cwm George.

The second route has three options, taking the walker through Cwm George, passing below the site of an Iron Age Settlement and then following the track towards Michaelston and the Cwrt-y-Ala Basin. At that point there are details of two alternative routes, all ending by returning via Dinas Powys Golf Course to the village.

The third route takes the walker through a network of paths, avoiding the busy roads, from the Twyn across the Dinas Powys Golf Course to St Andrews with its lovely old church,

and then back to the village passing Garnhill towards Beauville Lane and the Twyncyn.

The fourth choice is a walk along the Dinas Powys and Biglis Moors leading to Biglis Farm and around St Andrews Golf Course and back through St Andrews, passing Garnhill towards the Beauville Lane.

The fifth walk, starting at the Murch, proceeds via Cross Common to Pop Hill and returns via Green Lane and Parc Bryn-y-Don playing fields and Southra Park.

If that is not enough there's the circular Village Trail commencing at The Star and concluding at The Three Horseshoes, but taking in many of the historical buildings and sites.

Some properties have disappeared since 1993, such as St Winifred's and Wesley Court Centre, and there have been additions, such as the new modern houses on the site of the Malthouse Farm.

However, what is interesting is how little things have changed. We still have the country walks, the history and perhaps of most importance the great sense of community.

The text and maps were revised by Geraint and Cai Thomas. The booklet was edited and compiled by Derek Brushett and organised by Val Hartrey from the Civic Society.

CHRIS FRANKS

Fairies, and gnomes join the animals down on the Farm!

THERE is plenty to see and do this weekend at the Amelia Trust Farm.

The Trust is a working farm set on 160 acres of countryside in the Vale. Visitors are invited to see, hear and smell a working farm, which is providing an alternative education for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people working with skilled staff and volunteers.

The farm is a charity that receives no core funding and relies heavily on donations from members of the public. There is no entry fee, but visitors are asked to make a donation for car parking.

Every Saturday and Wednesday children can 'meet the animals' on a guided tour at 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Spaces on the tour are limited so it is advised to call to reserve a space. Tours cost £3 per child. To reserve a space, call 01446 782030.

There is a fairy and gnome trail through the woodlands (£2 per child with a prize at the end).

Find out more about what's on at the Amelia Trust Farm on our Facebook page, Twitter feed and our website www.ameliatrust.org.uk.



Follow us on Twitter @gem_news

Exam despair? The Samaritans can help...

GCSE, AS and A-level results will affect the futures of an estimated five million young people in Wales and England.

If anyone is struggling because of exam results, or worried about a friend or relative, Samaritans is available around the clock, every day of the year.

"Samaritans' volunteers are here for anyone who is struggling to cope after the AS and A-level results. We

keep conversations private and we won't judge," said Deborah Jones, director of Bridgend Samaritans.

"As well as calling the helpline, you can contact us via SMS, send an email, or come to your local branch and talk to a volunteer face-to-face, if that's what you would prefer."

For more details contact Bridgend Samaritans on 01656 662333.

Hundreds of enthusiasts descend on Island railway

REPORT AND IMAGES BY NICK WILCOCK.



BARRY ISLAND welcomed over 400 railway enthusiasts on Saturday, August 22 when, for the first time in nearly 20 years, a charter train from London visited Barry Island and the Tourist Railway.

The charter, run by UK Railtours, arrived at Barry with two Canadian-built class 66 freight locomotives before crossing onto the Barry Tourist Railway site, where passengers were treated to a tour of the system, firstly to the halt at Gladstone Bridge by Morrisons and then to the platform at the Waterfront.

The mainline engines then gave way to the railway's own engine, which took the train over to the Island as the freight engines aren't

allowed over the weight-restricted causeway bridge.

The passengers had a two-hour break to sample the delights of Barry Island and with the glorious weather on the day, many took the chance to head to the beach for an ice cream.

For those who wanted to keep with the railway theme, the Tourist Railway ran shuttles to their main depot to allow the enthusiasts to see the various locomotives and rolling stock that are under restoration there, and to see the new steam engine that has been bought by the railway, Susan.

Thankfully, the rain held off until the train left Barry and feedback left online in the following days saw many positive comments about the railway and Barry.



AM VIEWS NEW DEVELOPMENT

VALE AM Jane Hutt visited the new housing development at the Waterfront last week, and was pleased to hear from Persimmon's developments to come including, Richard Keogh how the Welsh Government's Help to Buy scheme had made a difference to house buyers.

Viewing the show houses, she welcomed the new community now establishing itself in the heart of Barry. There are exciting developments to come including access to new services and facilities, the new road alongside the Ocean Water Sport activities on No 1 Dock and the new Pump House.

VALE SHOW HOME PRODUCE RESULTS

PRIZE winners for home produce, floral, crafts and children's competitions at the recent Vale Show were as follows:

Section 1 preserves.

Jar marmalade – DR Morgan.
Jar strawberry jam – Carol James.
Lemon curd – Tim Dawe and VR Morgan.
Jar blackcurrant jam – Mari Goldsworthy.

Jar of mango chutney – Kay Bowring.
Jar of redcurrant sauce – Kay Bowring.

Section 2 cookery.

Wholemeal loaf of bread – Tim Dawe.
Five cherry scones – Sarah Davies.
Quiche Lorraine – Elizabeth Ellis.
Five savoury biscuits – Katy Llewellyn.
Five cheese and onion pasties – Katy Llewellyn.

Boiled fruit cake – Jan Rees.
Soured cream crumble cake – C Dibble.
Victoria sponge – P Vincent.
Five Welsh cakes – Hollie Williams.
Five flapjacks – Abigail Evans.
Honey and spice loaf cake – C Dibble.
Apple tart – Emma Davies.
A decorated child's birthday cake – Hollie Williams.

Five decorated cupcakes – Hollie Williams.
Jam Swiss roll – Hollie Williams.
Five cheese scones (men only) – Graham Snowden.
Section 3 flower arrangements.
An arrangement 'Shades of Green' – Mary Grey.
A table centre – Mary Grey.
Small is Beautiful – Mary Grey.
An exhibit representing Wales – Mari Goldsworthy.
An exhibit to include a frame – Mari Goldsworthy.

Section 4 craft.

A fabric picnic bag – Kay Bowring.
An article of canvas work – Elaine Jones.
A peg bag made from an article of clothing – Colleen Atyeo.

A toy made from recycled material – Colleen Atyeo.
A bookmark – Jane Cresswell.
An item of fashion jewellery – Kay Bowring.
A baby's bonnet (to be donated to a local premature baby unit) – Julia Preece.
An iPad cover – Colleen Atyeo.
A birthday card (any medium) – KM Turner.

Section 5 art.

Watercolour – AR Connelly.
Oil/acrylic – AR Connelly.
Drawing – AR Connelly.
Pastels – G Oliver.
Photograph 'Looking Through the Window' in colour – Glyn Jones.
Photograph 'Falling Water' in black and white – Steve Randall.

Section 6 Children's Classes

Seven years and under: model of a sheep – Luca Llewellyn.

A painting/drawing of a Welsh castle – Bryony Boyce.

A Lego model (agricultural theme) – Edward Jeynes.

Age 8 – 11: Design a Welsh flag (any medium) – Mae Thomas.

Five Welsh cakes – Mae Thomas.

A Lego model (agricultural theme) – Lucy Owen.

Age 12 – 16: painting/sketch of a Welsh castle – Charlotte Owen.

Five Welsh cakes – Kiera Atyeo Canter.

A Lego model (agricultural theme) – Hebe Thomas.

Chairman's Cup competition – Lisa Liley.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (A4050 PORT ROAD (EAST), WENVOE) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

On the 21st August 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

The Order will come into operation on the 1st September 2015 or on the date that the necessary Traffic Signs are in place whichever is the later and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 1st September 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location The area of the A4050 Port Road (East) Wenvoe, affected is from its junction with Pencoedre Lane, Barry in a generally northerly direction to the County boundary with Cardiff at Culverhouse Cross.

In addition, the Order known as "The Vale of Glamorgan A4050 Port Road (East) Barry (Amendment to Existing 40 / 50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2011" shall be suspended in part for the duration of this Order.

Reason To allow for the construction of new metro proposals together with improvements to footway and cycle lane

Duration From 06:00hrs on Monday 1st September 2015, for a maximum period of 18 months or until the 30mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

Dated this 27th day of August 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services and Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA



Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015 GORCHYMYN CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30 M.Y.A. (DROS DRO) (DWYRAIN PORT ROAD (A4050), GWENFÔ)

Ar 21 Awst 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr Atodlenni isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 1 Medi 2015, neu bryd bynnag y bydd yr holl arwyddion traffig angenrheidiol wedi'u gosod, os na fydd hynny wedi dyddwedd erbyn y dyddiad hwnnw. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 1 Medi 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATOLDEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn gyflymach na 30 m.y.a. yn y fan a nodwyd yn Atolden 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad Dwyrain Port Road (A4050), Gwenfô, o'r gyffordd â Lôn Pencoedre, hyd at y ffin sirol â Chaerdydd yng Nghroes Cwrlwys, wrth deithio'n gyffredinol tua'r gogledd.

Hefyd, bydd y gorchymyn a adwaenir fel "Gorchymyn (Newid Cyflyngiad Cyflymdra Presennol 40 / 50 m.y.a.) Dwyrain Port Road (A4050), Y Barri 2011" yn cael ei atal yn rhannol dros dro tra pery'r Gorchymyn hwn.

Rheswm Paratoi ar gyfer gweithredu'r cynigion ynglŷn â system trenau Metro newydd a gwella'r llwybr troed a'r llwybr seiclo.

Cyfnod O 6.00am ar ddydd Llun 1 Medi 2015 am 18 mis ar y mwyaf neu hyd nes y symudir yr arwyddion traffig 30 m.y.a. os digwydd hynny o fewn y cyfnod hwnnw.

Dyddiedig 27 Awst 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau,
Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.



The Vale of Glamorgan Council (PONTSARN LEVEL CROSSING PETERSTON SUPER ELY) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On 21st August 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Pontsarn Level Crossing Peterston Super Ely) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2015.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location: The area to be closed is the level crossing at Pontsarn Lane, Peterston Super Ely

Reason: To allow for the replacement of Barriers, Bases and Traffic Signals.

Duration: From 22.00hrs on Saturday 29th August 2015, until 06.00hrs Wednesday 30th September 2015.

Alt. Route: Signed diversions for westbound traffic will be from the point of closure at Pontsarn Level Crossing, in a westerly direction to the junction at Clwdd Coch, then turning left and proceeding in a southerly direction through the village of Pendoylan, then continuing along this road in a southerly direction to the junction at grid 306191 175792 adjacent to Pendoylan Nursery, then continuing in a southeasterly direction from this junction to the junction at grid 307662 175420 at Gwern-Y-Steeple, and turning left, continue through the village of Peterston-Super-Ely to the junction at grid 308846 177362 adjacent to a property known as Lockwood, then turning left, and continue along this road in a northwesterly direction to the eastern point of the closure, and vice versa for eastbound traffic.

NB: The contractor will provide supervised pedestrian access during the times of the closure.

Dated this 27th day of August 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015 GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (CROESFAN WASTAD PONT-SARN LLANBEDR-Y-FRO)

1. Ar 21 Awst 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddwygiedig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod:

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel "Gorchymyn (Cau Ffordd) (Dros Dro) (Croesfan Wastad Pont-sarn Llanbedr-y-fro) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015".

ATOLDEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn y fan a nodwyd yn Atolden 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad: Y groesfan wastad yn Lôn Pont-sarn, Llanbedr-y-fro yw'r fan a fydd yn cau.

Rheswm: Ailosod Bariau, Gwaelodion a Goleuadau Traffig y groesfan.

Cyfnod: O 10pm ar ddydd Sadwrn 29 Awst 2015, hyd 6.00am ar ddydd Mercher 30 Medi 2015.

Llwybr arall: Bydd traffig dargyfeiriedig sy'n deithio tua'r gorllewin, yn dilyn arwyddion o groesfan gaeddig Pont-sarn i gyfeiriad y gorllewin, nes cyrraedd cyffordd Clawdd Coch. Bydd y traffig yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno, ac yn symud tua'r de drwy bentref Pendelwyn, ac ymlaen ar hyd y ffordd honno i gyfeiriad y de o hyd, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirif grid 306191 175792, gyferbyn â Meithrinfa Pendelwyn. Bydd yn symud ymlaen wedyn tua'r de dwyrain, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirif grid 307662 175420 yng Ngwern-y-Steeple. Bydd y traffig yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno, ac yn deithio drwy bentref Llanbedr-y-fro, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirif grid 308846 177362, wrth ymyl darn o eiddo a adwaenir fel "Lockwood". Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wedyn, ac yn dilyn y ffordd honno tua'r gogledd orllewin nes cyrraedd pen dwyreiniol y fan gaeddig. Bydd traffig dargyfeiriedig sy'n deithio tua'r dwyrain yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

D.S. Bydd y contractwr yn sicrhau bod mynediad i gerddwyr o dan oruchwyliaeth tra bod y fan hon ar gau.

Dyddiedig 27 Awst 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.



Walkers head west (and east) in the sunshine!

TWELVE walkers they set off in lovely weather past the huge earth mound known as Tump Turret that once contained a motte and bailey castle, before moving on to St Nicholas Church, with its tall spire visible for miles around. They headed through fields to Redban Farm, then through woodland to join a lane leading to Cwmcarvan, where they managed to view the interior of St Clements Church, after a local gentleman working in the churchyard opened up for them.

Climbing up to The North and passing what had been the old village pub – now a private dwelling – they first descended and then climbed once more through the woods to Parsons Allotment before returning to Trellech by way of road and field.

On August 29, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate walk in a figure of eight at Llantrisant; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On August 31, meet at 10am at Dinas Powys village square for a 10-mile moderate tramp on local footpaths to avoid the Bank Holiday crowds; contact 01446 737131.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

In contrast, Nick and his group headed up to Monmouthshire, beginning their 10-mile hike from the small village of Trellech, where

VALE SHOW PROVED A FANTASTIC AND FUN DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
ANDY WICKS**
Telephone 07855 374478

VALE SHOW organisers received plaudits after this year's event with thousands of people descending on the western Vale for its premier rural occasion.

People return to the show year on year because it just gets bigger, better and even more spectacular. They don't just come from the Vale, Bridgend and Cardiff – some make the journey along the M4 from west Wales, Herefordshire and the west country.

Local photographer Andy Wicks captured families and friends relaxing in the lovely sunshine.

Roll on August 2016!



BRENDON MCDONALL FILMING 'SPOILERS' Award-winning director makes his next movie in Llantwit locations



Director Brendon McDonall checks the next set-up.

IMAGES AND WORDS by ANDY WICKS

A film crew descended on the Tudor Tavern Llantwit Major on Monday, August 24, with one of the bar staff getting a small speaking role.

The movie, 'Spoilers' by Australian film maker Brendon McDonall, is described as a 'comic dramedy short' and will hit cinemas in 2016.

As a result of winning the 2014 Cardiff 'IRIS' film award for 'All God's Creatures', Brendon received £30,000 to fund a new film.

Together with producer Grant Vidgen, the cast and crew will be shooting at the Tudor, Llantwit beach and Cardiff Airport over the period of a week.

Local star Chelsea



Chelsea Keeling is to make an appearance in the film.

Keeling, in the true spirit of Wales, gets to say 'Tidy' during her brief appearance.

Full House please, for social bingo!

The last bingo session in our spring series at Cowbridge finished with a bang – record attendance and good prizes!

Let's hope the start of

the late summer series is as successful following the holiday break, when everyone will have recharged their brain cells and girded their loins, (should they have needed regarding).

So stand by for the start of the next series on September 3. There will be good prizes of cash (prizes presented by members and guests, please!) and a meal from a local hostelry. As a further incentive, the ladies will provide you with some excellent food.

So, please turn up in force on Thursday, September 3 at 7pm for 7.30pm at The Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall with your dabbler, bottle of wine (for making new friends) and some new members.

See you there!

BASIL WATKINS



Shooting in the bar.

LOCAL ATHLETES TAKE PART IN DISABLED GAMES



MORE than 300 disabled athletes gathered at Swindon recently to compete in their own 'Olympics', including Welsh representatives.

The Bob Cook Memorial Games, organised by local Lions clubs, was held at the

Swindon county ground and hosted disabled athletes from across south Wales, midlands and southern England.

A group of students from UWC Atlantic College provided help and support on the day and Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions attended with seven competitors from the Cowbridge Gateway club.

Family fun weekend at Sully

THERE is a three-day family fun and craft fayre weekend, August 29-31, at Sully Sports and Social Club, Sully, from 11am to 6pm with entertainment until late, raising funds for the National Autistic Society and the JAM fund.

There will be rides and games; bouncy castles; pony rides; go karts; barbecue and bar; food vendors' craft stalls; face painting; live bands; and entertainment including a disco from 6pm.

For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/16008147350098/>

Ellen Warner (AC Student) reports:

The Bob Cook games, a paralympic games, took place on Sunday, August 9. Many Gateway clubs and other special needs clubs around the UK participated.

The competitors engaged in many races and games – sprints, javelin, welly throwing, discus, shotput and bowls. The students of Atlantic College went to the games as volunteers, as they have done before in the previous years.

Every Tuesday and

Friday some students from the college visit the Gateway Club in Bridgend. The students of Atlantic College thoroughly enjoyed their day.

One of the students stated that it was a fun day filled with lots of sunshine. Also, she was extremely happy seeing the participants giving it their all. All the students were very impressed to see the passion that the participants gave to play sports and remain fit.

"I was very inspired by all the courage the participants brought out today," says Stephanie Anani, a student at the college.

Overall the Bob Cook games was a blast to the participants and the volunteers.

Thanks were extended to Chippenham Lions Club for leading the organisation of the event and also to the many Lions clubs who also made it such a memorable day.

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for August 24:

1st Tony Disley & John Salisbury 67.72%, 2nd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 63.99%, 3rd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 63.49%.

Please note there will be no bridge on Monday, August 31 (bank holiday Monday).

LE (sec)

P&K brothers finish as the top two in Welsh Championship

IT is time to proclaim a golfing family dynasty after golfing brothers Tom and Sam Peet made it a family one-two in the Wales under-13 championships, with former Wales international Matthew Peet watching on as a proud father.

While 13-year-old Tom claimed the Welsh title at St Mellons golf club in Cardiff with a 76 – and also managed to come fourth at under-15 level with a second round 71 – 10-year-old Sam was only three shots back in second place to make it a remarkable double for the two Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club members, who live in Neath.

Father Matthew Peet is a former winner of the Welsh Stroke Play title in



Tom Peet with trophy.

1995, having come up through the Wales ranks from junior to senior international before turning professional for a few years, and then regaining his amateur status.

"It was a great weekend for us, they both did really well so we were pleased and thrilled," said the proud dad.

"My wife Penny and I always instill in them the importance of enjoyment and that what will be,

will be.

"They have been playing since they were five years old. I have a bit of a background in golf to start them off on the right track and then they have been having coaching with Keith Williams at the Vale of Glamorgan, through the Glamorgan county and Golf Union.

"Because they enjoy it, they work hard and happen to be pretty good at what they are doing.

"It is great for the family, fabulous, but a bit of a surprise just how well they did. I got more nervous watching them than when I was playing myself, it was a thrill and I loved seeing how well they presented themselves – and then doing so well on top of that.

"It is great to watch them growing up in the sport. It makes us very, very proud to see how they behave."

Comeback in vain for Llantwit Major AFC

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC travelled to Cardiff for their second Welsh League Division 3 fixture to play newly promoted STM.

The visitors knew it would be a tough fixture as STM had won their opening fixture against fancied Cardiff Corries FC.

Despite this Llantwit roared into a magnificent opening 25 minutes, creating three gilt edged chances, of which none found the back of the net.

True to recent league form the opposition scored against the run of play and suddenly Llantwit found themselves 3-0 down!

The adage that goals change matches has never been more apt. On the stroke of halftime Danny Lewis pulled one back after good work from Nathan Jones, breaking up play in midfield, setting Keiran Waggors off on a mazy run. He slipped the ball into Rob Jones, who in turn fed Danny, who finished with aplomb.

After the halftime rally cry, Llantwit went about their business in a more positive fashion, Jon Fletcher, Kristian Smith and Nathan Jones bossing the midfield.

Rob Jones was proving to be (as always), a willing worker and a good outlet enabling Llantwit to mount sustained pressure.

However, again, the defence was caught napping, was left a little exposed in the quest to get back into the game and STM grabbed a 4-1 lead on a rare counter-attack.

All credit to Llantwit, as on the hour mark Kristian reduced the deficit with a spectacular long range effort. Karl was forced to make changes and made a double substitution with 23 minutes left on the clock.

Gethin Jennings and Lee Jones were introduced for Kristian and Jon Fletcher. The wave of pressure applied by Llantwit did not abate as full-backs Jon Butler and Lewis James were a constant thorn to STM.

Nathan Jones continued to influence the game and fired in a free kick which Leroy converted at the far post with a fine header with seven minutes remaining.

STM sent on additional defenders to protect their slender lead, while Llantwit continued to pass the ball with incredible precision.

In the dying seconds Rob Jones chased a lost cause, stole the ball off of an STM defender very close to the byline, and pulled the ball back for third substitute Mark Evans, who instinctively prodded the ball towards goal. The STM keeper saved with his legs and the ensuing scramble went in favour of STM.

This proved to be Llantwit's last throw of the dice, the final score 4-3.

Keeper Jack Lansdown kept Llantwit in the game with a few class saves as Llantwit threw caution to the wind.

Llantwit Major AFC youth are looking for a goalkeeper for this coming season - please contact Phill Clay on 07508 275104. DJ

Rain no pain as Cowbridge CC set for promotion gain

AFTER a virtual washout of club cricket on Saturday, Cowbridge stand to be promoted back to Division One of the South Wales Cricket Association should they manage to gain five points from the home fixture against Pwll.

With just this one game to go, the Cowbridge first XI might be expected to achieve this target with bonus points alone. A point is gained for every 40 runs or two wickets and the five needed assumes a maximum points haul for Drefach at champions Bronwydd – the latter scenario must

be considered unlikely.

There is a personal angle too. Cowbridge skipper Neil Brand is just 37 short of scoring 1000 runs in the league season, a unique achievement. Neil is also just three wickets away from getting 50 wickets.

The match starts at 1.30pm and support will be most welcome.

The Second XI have to travel to Llandysul hoping to secure Division Five cricket next year.

Captain Ian Evans will be keen to hold onto the 10 point advantage the team has over Llanelli as rather unfairly three teams are set to be relegated.

JB

Cowbridge CC strengthen grip on promotion places

BY achieving a winning draw against Drefach on Saturday, Cowbridge Cricket Club's first XI strengthened their hold on the second promotion place for elevation to Division One of the South Wales Cricket Association.

At the start of play Cowbridge held a 16 point advantage over third placed Drefach with three games to be played.

This represented a solid position but certainly not one of great comfort with a total of 84 points available. Any slip by Cowbridge could have had serious consequences placing them and Drefach in an even position.

As it turned out it was not far short of the end of the game that the Cowbridge faithful could breathe easily as a tense game finally swung their way.

Batting first on a tired end of season pitch, only Mike Lloyd batted with any authority making a patient 62.

Skipper Neil Brand had got to

25 but at 110-3 with Merilaht away and Lloyd and Brand back in the pavilion, it was time for some hard graft from Adam Wood (20) and Alex Kurobasa (24) who added 30 for the fourth wicket in what would prove a vital partnership.

A flourish from the tail with Gethin Davies (11) leading the way eventually got Cowbridge to 172-8 off 50 overs.

While some of the XI who are more used to scores well in excess of 200 were anxious, the consensus was that if they bowled and fielded well then the total was probably enough.

While Sam Russel and Alex Kurobasa bowled steadily for the home side there was a solid start from Drefach.

The visitors got to 33 before Neil Brand struck with a catch at the wicket by Chris Willey, which was followed straight away by his bowling the new batsman with an arm ball.

At 37-2 Drefach remained in the game and as the third wicket partnership grew to 99 there were some worried faces around the ground.

However two wickets, a bowled by Brand followed up with Rhidian Harris also hitting the stumps, reduced Drefach to 100-4. A stunning slip catch by Kurobasa off Brand and an LBW meant that the seemingly good position had become one of hopelessness, four wickets having fallen for the total of eight runs.

At 107-6 there was speculation that Drefach might go for glory and attempt an unlikely chase. They chose not follow this route and limped along to 138-9 at the close.

Cowbridge had been unable to take the final wicket to achieve an outright win for the fifth time this season.

The pick of the bowlers was Neil Brand (5-27 off 15 overs) and Alex Kurobasa (2-27 off 12) whose all-round contribution had been a significant factor in the satisfactory outcome.

Sadly the second XI did not have a fixture on Saturday as Morriston conceded the game. The silver lining was 28 points, which keeps the seconds in seventh place in Division Five.

JRB

Charity Fishing Open 2015

THIS year's annual Llantwit Major Charity Fishing Open is taking place on Sunday, September 13.

This is the fourth year, and we are raising funds for two very important charities - Diabetes UK Cymru and MIND Cymru which has been chosen in memory of local young man Luke Anderson and we are hoping to not only raise funds, but to help raise more awareness of mental health in particular among young adults.

The main prize list includes a week's guided fishing trip to Iceland in 2016 (including flight, worth £850), £500 cash donated by Stewart Read, £300 cash donated by Maria of the Beach Cafe Llantwit Major, and many many other prizes.

There is also a top raffle prize of £100 cash, and another £50 cash prize donated by Arthur Thompson of W A Brown Funeral Directors. We are also supported by many other local people and businesses.

If anyone requires any information regarding the event, or would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact Mark 07721791210 or Sally 07773273885.

Sally Owen

The Cowbridge bowls round-up

COWBRIDGE lady bowlers continue to excel in all competitions.

It is to the selectors' credit that they have managed to play 31 of its members this season to date.

On August 10, away to Millwood Barry in the two rink Evening League competition, Cowbridge lost on one rink but won on the other and gained three more points.

Rink scores: Diane Purnell, Caryl Davies, Phyllis Price and Lynda Wilson (skip) 12-15; Sandra Collin, Sylvia Hole, Diane Lloyd and Sue Flower (skip) 14-12. Match score: Cowbridge 26, Millwood 27.

On August 11 in a friendly at home to Barry Romilly, Cowbridge won on all three rinks and overall by 32 shots.

Rink scores: Sandra Collin, Anne Jarvis, Sylvia Hole and Joy Woolford (skip) 20-9; Janet Morton, Mary Dowdle, Caryl Davies and Pat Holdsworth (skip) 17-6; Thelma Jones, Pat Davey, Carol Davies and Lynda Wilson (skip) 19-9. Match score: Cowbridge 56, Barry Romilly 24.

On August 13, in an all-important league match at home to Llantwit Major, Cowbridge won on all three rinks. Two rinks were close but a good finish secured maximum points and a top of the table position.

Rink scores: Diane Purnell, Diane Lloyd, Kay Edwards and Joan Bradley (skip) 15-14; Janet Morton, Phyllis Price, Pat Holdsworth and Shirley Wilkinson (skip) 15-13; Lynda Wilson, Helena Snelling, May Jones and Sue Flower (skip) 19-11. Match score: Cowbridge 49, Llantwit 38. As for the men, the news is not so good in the two games played.

In the Munro midweek game Dinas Powis made a rare visit to Cowbridge, winning two of the rinks and the match overall by 13 shots.

Rink scores: Ron Frayling, John Hunt, Colin Wilson and Norman Wilkinson (skip) 13-18; Gerry Lloyd Brian Williams, Peter Launder and Clive Pritchard (skip) 10-26; Terry Dunsdown, Jim Hewlett, Guy Morton and Bob Penn (skip) 18-15; Mansel Davey, Phil Woosnam, Byron Richards and Alan Wallace (skip) 22-17. Match score: Cowbridge 63, Dinas Powis 76.

Finally, the weekend game away to Fairakro (Roath Park) - the team holding up the table. Cowbridge were looking for rink wins and some points but it was not to be - we left pointless.

Match score: Cowbridge 56, Fairakro 99.

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LLANTWIT MAJOR £162,500



Modern Three Bedroom End of Link House comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Gas central heating, Double glazed windows. Allocated Parking Space. Low maintenance garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Ref 809D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR £175,000



Modern well presented Georgian style three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and off road parking. Neatly laid garden. Ref 832D

BOVERTON - £359,950



Exceptionally well presented 18th century cottage with three bedrooms comprises Hall, Sitting Room, Central Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Two Bathrooms, Conservatory, Detached Garage. Natural timbers. Gas central heating, Georgian glazed windows. Mature gardens with southerly and westerly aspect. Freehold. Ref 816D

LLANTWIT MAJOR £189,950



Modern three bedroom detached house with integral garage comprising Reception Hall, Cloakroom/WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Garden to front paved for parking. Enclosed rear garden. Ref 817D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £190,000



Modern detached two bedroom bungalow with integral garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bathroom/WC, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway for parking. Open plan garden to front and neatly laid rear garden. No chain. Ref 825D

LLANTWIT MAJOR £179,500



Modern well presented three bedroom Georgian style house and Garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom, UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Good size low maintenance gardens to front, side and rear. Ref 833D



Substantial three double bedroom detached house with garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating, Driveway and gardens to front and rear. No onward chain. Ref 828D

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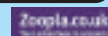


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Cowbridge £565,000

Deceptively spacious house with well presented accommodation on 3 floors including 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and 5 double bedrooms, family bathroom and an en-suite. Gardens. Double garage. Distant views over town and countryside and within walking distance of Cowbridge town centre. EPC Rating - D.



Cowbridge £575,000

Character detached house set within pretty mature gardens. The accommodation includes living room, sitting room, dining room, a garden room, study area, kitchen/diner, utility room, cloakroom/WC, 4 bedrooms, an en-suite shower room, separate shower room and family bathroom. Double garage and workshop. EPC Rating - E.



Bridgend £220,000

A traditional, semi-detached house, in the popular residential area of Ewenny Rd, Bridgend, within level walking distance of the town centre. Well proportioned accommodation comprising 2 living rooms, kitchen/dining room, downstairs cloakroom 3 bedrooms and 2 shower rooms. Front and rear garden. EPC Rating - D.



Graig Penllyn

£269,950

Spacious detached bungalow with planning permission to create a house with 3 reception rooms plus 4 double bedrooms. The existing accommodation includes 2 double bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom and utility. Open views over a long front garden and across the village playing fields. Attached garage and a stone-built garage/store with consent for conversion. EPC Rating - E.



St Athan £525,000

An imposing detached residence, comprehensively and stylishly refurbished and superbly appointed with accommodation including 3 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 6 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. UPVC double glazed and gas central heating. Twin garage. Large, mature rear garden which provides an attractive setting. EPC Rating - E.



Llanmaes £415,000

Large detached house with well proportioned accommodation including lounge, conservatory, dining room, study, kitchen-breakfast room, a large utility room and cloakroom/WC, 4 double bedrooms, plus a family bathroom. Driveway parking and integral, double garage. Lawned front garden and a sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating - E.

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C70



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D55



Higher End, St Athan
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D57



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3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
GCH Combi

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D62



Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
Garage
Impressive Driveway

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E52



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4 Beds. 2 Recps.
Shower Rm. Utility.
Requires Work.

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D55



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Birthdays

GEORGE THOMPSON
Happy 18th Birthday
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*Hope you have a lovely day.
Lots of love Mum, Dad, Emily,
Katie & Ollie xxx*

Hannah
Happy 13th Birthday
30th AUGUST
*"We thank the stars for the precious angel you are."
Lots of love, from Mummy,
Daddy, Nanna, Bampa, Uncle
Rhys & Auntie Gill xxx*

Family Notices

HANLON
George (Tatty)
Suddenly but peacefully on August 23 at Llandough hospital, Tatty, well known for his time as a taxi driver and loyal member of Cadoxton Cons Club. Devoted husband to Margaret, whom loved dad of Sian, Karen and father-in-law to John, loving grandad of David, Liam and Gemma.
Tatty will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.
Resting at the private funeral home of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, September 4 at 2pm. Immediate family flowers only please, donations if desired can be made at the service or at Tatty's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to Vale Plus, Barry. By request, a hint of blue to be worn as part of funeral attire.
All enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

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Family Notices

THOMAS
Caroline (née Lambert)
Passed away suddenly, but peacefully, on August 17 surrounded by her loving family. Much loved wife of Alan, devoted mother of Debbie and Dawn, grandmother and great-grandmother.
Caroline will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Funeral service on Friday August 28, 2015, in Rosemount (Co-operative) Funeral Home Chapel of Rest, Bridgend at 1pm, followed by interment in Laleston Cemetery at 2pm. Flowers are welcome. All further enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend CF31 3AP.
Tel: 01656 653156.

FEAR
Marion Gwladys (SRN)
(Formerly of Ackland Road, Bridgend)
Peacefully on August 16 at her home in Pavillion Court, Porthcawl, Marion, much loved aunty of Jonathan, Julie, Alison and Paul, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral service at Margam Crematorium on Friday, September 4 at 11.30am.

Whitchurch
Donald John (Don)
Suddenly but peacefully on August 18 at Llandough Hospital, Donald John (Don), aged 84 years of Barry. Retired councillor and ex-mayor of Barry Town. Dearly loved husband of Christina.
Don will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.
Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Tuesday, September 1. Service in the chapel at 1pm, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium. No flowers by family request. Black tie not requested.

MORTIMER
Marjorie Estelle (née Gully)
Peacefully on August 24 at her home in Llantrithyd, Marjorie, beloved wife of the late Len, mother of Nigel, grandmother of Charlotte and Richard, a loving great grandmother and stepmother of John.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnmon, Funeral Friday September 4, service 10.45am at Llantrithyd Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 12 noon.
Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Dogs Trust c/o J James, 11 Fonnmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Mulooly coolly lands Brynhill title with consistent display!

THE club championship day at Brynhill Golf Club was another fabulous day of golf.

Steady patient golf claimed a victory for Matthew Mulooly over Scott Bowman. Scott has appeared in 12 club championship finals and has won seven times.

The weather was perfect for the occasion and the course was presented in pristine condition by Iain Grant and his staff. There were many spectators gathered on the first tee waiting for the finalists to tee off.

A visit by retired president, Peter Hayman, was much appreciated by the finalists and spectators. Keith Atkinson, the club president, and wife Brenda followed the matches all day and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

It was a nip and tuck round which ended all square on the 18th hole. In the afternoon round, Matthew's metronomic consistency gradually wore down Scott's dogged resistance.

Matthew went 4up after the 10th; at the 14th Matthew retained a 3-hole lead until eventually winning the match on the 16th hole.

The caddies were Sam Preston for Matt Mulooly and Huw Wigley for Scott Bowman.

The club captain Rhys Jones refereed the match which was played fairly and in the true spirit of golf.

The captain said it was an honour to referee a match between two great golfers.

On the same day there were three other very important matches.

The Ernest Williams match was played between Wayne Adams, with his caddie Richard Bond, and Craig Balchin and his caddie Aaron Smith.

This match teed off after the club championship and was a



The Ernest Williams match.



The Hugh Howell match.



The club championship match.



The Chief Buck Rabbit match.

fantastic game.

Wayne had to give Craig six shots and Wayne made the quote of the day going down the seventh fairway, when he asked if Craig had a shot on the hole; when the answer was yes, given by the referee John Giles, Wayne asked when was Craig going to give him a shot!

Craig won the first hole after a fantastic second shot from the trees to the green and was 3up after scoring a birdie on the sixth.

Craig stayed 3up until the eighth, then Wayne

pulled back two holes. The match was steady but exciting with Craig 3up after 14.

At the 15th, Craig hit a monstrous drive and a second shot to the green. Wayne put his second shot into the bunker, and the match finished with Craig winning 4 and 3.

The golf was superb to watch - John Giles said the level of golf was amazing and the caddies were exceptional.

The Hugh Howell (Midway) match was between Cael Pembertrey with Dan Williams as caddie, and

Mike Bird with caddie Simmon Pringle; the referee was Matthew Thomas.

It was another hard-fought match with a nervous start by both players, Mike was 1up after six.

On the 13th, Mike played a second ball off the tee after losing his first ball and ended up four on the green.

Cael was on in two and took the hole gaining a 1up advantage.

Cael was 3up after 15 holes and with pressure mounting, both players were wayward and had to play a provisional ball off the 16th tee.

Both balls were found and Cael sealed the deal, winning 3 and 2.

The Chief Buck Rabbit was played between Bradley Dodd and Clive Blake. It was a close match all the way with a fantastic camaraderie between the players.

The referee Hilary West was impressed with the level of golf and commended both players.

The game finished on the 17th green showing what a close contest took place; caddies were Scott Nelson for Clive Blake and Colin Lewis for Bradley Dodd.

JK



Master Paul Jones with the team.

Llantwit fighters gain valuable experience

MASTER Paul Jones of Llantwit Major/Wales Tae Kwon Do travelled up to the Lee Valley Stadium in London to the 20th British International Championships with a small contingent to compete in this high level competition.

The team included the Commonwealth Welsh team bronze medalists Ellie and Ruth May, Adam Williams, also a Welsh team member, and our latest edition to the team, Bethany Burt.

Adam was up against a far more experienced fighter who he had fought last year and was beaten decisively. This time it was much closer with Adam just missing out on knocking out his opponent in the dying seconds by millimetres. A loss but huge improvements were made.

Ellie May was up against by far the shortest player she had ever fought, who was very smart in breaking angles to avoid Ellie's long legs. Ellie struggled to pin the girl down, who was clever in picking up odd points close in. A loss but a great learning experience on competing against

an unusual style and size player.

Bethany Burt was in her first Olympic style competition and was very nervous but once the match began she tried to control her opponent, but the girl had a good defence and the second round ended a draw, meaning they would go to a final round with a golden point winning shot (the first scoring shot wins).

After a cagey start, Beth managed to get a lovely head shot to win the match, putting her in the final against one of the top fighters in the country at her weight.

The match started with each player cancelling the other out using very similar techniques, each getting a odd point. As the second round was coming to an end at 3-3, it looked like it would go to the golden point round again when the player caught Beth with a body shot in the last two seconds to win the match. Very unlucky for Beth but a great first competition and a well-earned silver medal.

Ruth May was up and was raring to go. She was again up against a good player who was a attacking fighter but Ruth didn't panic and listened to her coach, picking the girl off with some good tactical shots while defending well, and winning the

match 9-6, putting her in the final. Ruth was against a Norwegian player who she and Paul had watched win her semi final by stoppage in a very aggressive manner.

Putting a quick game plan together, the match started as expected with Ruth's opponent attacking hard, and Ruth defended excellently. It was a good fight to watch, with both fighters nullifying the other all the way to the end of the second round with the score 0-0.

A golden point round would decide the winner. It started as the previous rounds had gone, with both looking for the clean shot and it could have gone either way, but this time the Norwegian got the score she needed to win the match. A great fight and a silver for Ruth - next time!

A long day but well worth it for the team overall especially seeing the relative inexperience of them on the whole. The next competition will soon be upon us.

If you want to know more about the Olympic style of Tae Kwon Do, please contact us via mail@llantwitmajortaeakwondo.com, mail@walestaekwondo.com or through the website: llantwitmajortaeakwondo.co.uk.

PJ

PENARTH HOCKEY CLUB MAKE THEIR LONG AWAITED RETURN

PENARTH Hockey Club will make a long-awaited return to an old stomping ground this weekend as it inaugurates the new Astroturf facility at Stanwell Comprehensive School.

After a long absence from the town - which took in a two-decade nomadic wander between venues as far afield as Leckwith, Mountain Ash and Barry - the club now has a new permanent home following the concerted effort to build a state-of-the-art artificial surface at Stanwell.

Many years after a thwarted first attempt to bring hockey back to the school, which used to play host to the Penarth teams on its Red-Gra pitches prior to the game's worldwide switch to artificial turf, preparation work for the sand-based facility finally began before Christmas, with the finishing touches added by South Wales Sports Grounds in the last few weeks in readiness for the grand opening over the August bank holiday weekend.

The new pitch will be inaugurated by a game between a Penarth Hockey Club select XI and a Stanwell Old Boys team making its competitive debut after forming for the occasion.

The ceremonial opening will be performed by former Welsh Hockey Association and current PHC president, Alan Carter, who also has long-standing links with Stanwell, where he spent much of his teaching career before becoming a school governor.

Another stalwart member of the Stanwell staff, former international umpire David Gale, will officiate the game alongside PHC vice-president Colin Crayford who, like Carter, has

held several notable positions in the sport, including technical official for the International Hockey Federation and executive officer of the Welsh Hockey Umpires Association.

Although exact line-ups remain fluid, both sides are expected to feature players who have earned international honours at both junior and senior levels, while the Stanwell side will bring back pupils from the past 40 years, including some of those who took the school to South Wales and Welsh Cup honours in the 1970s and 1980s.

Securing a pitch within a stone's throw of the club's spiritual home at Penarth Athletic Club is a key part of new chairman Nick Pratt's ambitious '20:20 Vision'.

The recent acquisition of coach Ben Croxall kickstarted the programme, which not only aims to return PHC to four senior sides and re-establish strong youth and veteran set-ups, but also to propel the club back amongst Wales' hockey elite.

"Penarth Hockey Club are eternally grateful to the headmaster of Stanwell School, Derek Jones, as well as the governors, Clare Kynaston and all at the school whose foresight and persistence have resulted in the establishment of this fantastic facility, not only for the students of Stanwell School but for the wider community and, of course, Penarth Hockey Club," Pratt said.

"This pitch, together with the resurgence of hockey as a sport at the school, can only serve to strengthen the links between Stanwell and Penarth Hockey Club that have existed for many decades, and be a catalyst for the club's '20:20 Vision' of becoming

one of the top four clubs in Wales again.

"Personally, I am delighted to be a part of this opening event, even though I will be wearing many hats - chairman of Penarth Hockey Club, captain of the Stanwell Old Boys team and former captain of one of the most successful school sides of the 1970s.

"I was one of the last to play on the old Red-Gra and one of the last to play on the grass at the nearby Athletic Club, so it is an absolute delight and privilege to be amongst the first to play on the new pitch - and to be coming home after so many years away."

Following the ceremonial opening, Stanwell will begin life as Penarth Hockey Club's official home as the first XI continue their pre-season preparations by hosting Cardiff & Met on September 5.

Saturday's activities will commence with the official opening at 1.30pm with the game between Penarth and Stanwell scheduled to start at 2pm. Post-match celebrations will continue at Penarth Athletic Club. Current, former and prospective players are encouraged to attend in support of both PHC and Stanwell.

Pre-season training currently takes place at Penarth Athletic Club between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on Wednesdays, and will continue for juniors and seniors under lights at Stanwell once the season gets underway.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact either player-coach Ben Croxall (b.croxall20@yahoo.co.uk) or club secretary Dave Stevens (d.stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Pre-season win for Cowbridge

ON a sweltering Saturday afternoon Cowbridge entertained Cefn Cribwr RFC for a pre-season run out on the Police Field.

Both sides provided squads of about 30 players and the afternoon was split into three 30 minute sessions. It was great to see a mixture of youth and experience for Cowbridge and despite the oppressive conditions both sides contributed to an open game with good rugby throughout.

Cowbridge finally ran out winners 14-10 but it could have been a lot more with many opportunities created throughout the game.

Coaches Leigh Davies and Dan Williams and captain Huw Lougher will have been pleased with the performance and with several key players unavailable the prospects for the coming season look bright.

The first league match is at home against Tonyrefail on Saturday, September 5, preceded by the youth against Rumney in the first round of the Cardiff and District Cup. It was hoped that both games would be played on the Athletic Field but the WRU have instructed all league games to kick off at 1.30pm on that Saturday, so the youth game will now take place on the Police Field.

It was good to see Rhod Walker at the club on Saturday following his injury a few weeks ago and he is well on the road to recovery. Rhys Price is also progressing well following knee surgery a few weeks ago - hopefully both will be back to full fitness soon.

Finally, captain Huw Lougher will be marrying Anna on September 5. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

RV/RK

Saints are off to flyer after scoring seven!

THE Saints were off to a flyer on the first day of the Premier Division as they fired seven goals past Penarth.

Despite conceding an early penalty, Saints put Penarth to the sword with goals coming from a Jordan Mortimore hat-trick, a double from Dean Cleave and one each from Sean Flynn and Tony Pugh.

Saints started the brighter and looked to engineer an early opening, with Courtney Goodwin heading a Reece Lewis cross straight at the keeper and Josh Morgan saw the ball in the back of the net but was ruled offside.

Penarth looked to break and saw an effort saved by the legs of Paul Lucas. Saints possibly should have taken the lead not long after – Lewis' free kick was headed back across goal by Dean Cleave and Joe Laing stooped to head the ball but unfortunately put it over the bar.

Penarth soon punished Saints and broke away, their forward brought down by Nicky Cox and a spot kick awarded. The home side dispatched the penalty and led.

St Athan pushed for an equaliser, stepped up the pressure and Jordan Mortimore drilled the ball across the goal but Richie Humphreys was inches away at full stretch.

The equaliser finally came minutes later. Lewis' corner was whipped in, Cox's header was brilliantly saved and subsequently cleared. The resulting throw was sent long into the box by Cox, Mortimore controlled, turned, stabbed the ball across goal and Cleave powered a header in.

Saints were looking to command and Cleave was finding acres of space in the middle. It was Cleave's ball over the top to Mortimore that saw the striker outmuscle the defender and unleash an unstoppable strike past the keeper to give St Athan the lead.

St Athan were in the ascendancy now and Cleave's through ball was missed by the defender, Mortimore was onto it and squared it to James Austin but the midfielder saw his side-footed effort crash back off the underside of the bar. Saints went in at the break and in control but with a feeling they could take the performance up a few levels.

St Athan picked up in the second half where they left off and Mortimore picked the ball up on the right hand side. The captain skipped past three and finished past the keeper to give the away side a two-goal cushion.

Sean Flynn and Tony Pugh were introduced and made an impact.

Cleave and Laing were now in full control of the centre of the park and

Saints were unstoppable. Lewis exchanged passes with Austin and whipped a cross from the left to the far post where Flynn headed in to kill the game.

Mortimore soon had his hat-trick as Cleave was once again the provider as his through ball put in the talisman to calmly slot past the home keeper for his treble.

It was another Reece Lewis free kick that was expertly dispatched for Mortimore to head back across goal for Cleave to head in his second of the game.

St Athan were playing some fine football now and carving their opponents open. The seventh goal came from a sweeping move that ended up with Flynn leaving the left back for dead. He saw Pugh's clever movement and pulled the ball back for him to tap in.

A fantastic start to the season for St Athan, scoring seven goals away from home.

Team: Lucas, Goodwin, Lewis, Cox, Humphreys, Cleave, Laing, Austin, Wilkin, Mortimore, Morgan. **Substitute:** Flynn, Pugh, L.Lewis.

ST ATHAN B 3, BARRY ATHLETIC B 4
The seconds were denied at the death in a thrilling opening day contest.

Veteran Colin George was the hero for Saints as the midfielder hit a fine hat trick to continue his fine form from pre-season. George's hat trick saw Saints into a 3-1 lead but Athletic pulled one back – but there was then a moment of controversy.

Athletic were awarded a debatable penalty and proceeded to convert from the spot. Athletic seconds used this momentum to go on and snatch the winner.

A big comeback for Athletic B and Saints' seconds will feel hard done by not to have taken anything from the game after being in a commanding position.

Team: MacDonald, Wolfe, Richards, Cleave, J.Howells, George, Fairchild, Young, Geldard, Stock, C.Howells. **Substitutes:** Pope, Hughes, Keen, Morgan.

The club thanks the fans who travelled home and away to support us in this new season and also our host of sponsors. Owens Motor Services in Llandow joins the club as our main sponsor this year alongside much valued support from Llantwit Vale & Car Wash, Green Future Landscaping and The Four Bells Inn, St Athan.



Teresa Goodwin

Teresa is on target at championships

ON August 3/7, the European Archery Championships took place at Kill in Sweden.

The week-long event was attended by many archers from across the continent; four archers went to represent Wales and had a fantastic week bringing home a gold and two silver medals.

Teresa Goodwin, chairperson of Llantwit Major Archers, had an exceptional week. For her first European

Championships, shooting in the female Recurve division, Teresa brought home two Welsh records, a high achievement award (Bow Masters) and second place in her shooting division.

Teresa is looking forward to a promising archery career and is planning to attend many more competitions in the future, including the World Championships in Australia.

MG

Matthew impresses at tournament

WHILE many players take a rest from competitive chess in the summer, some of the Barry players take part in a number of different tournaments.

Matthew Parry has been particularly busy of late playing in the third round of the 4NCL held in Birmingham. He played in the open section and all five of his opponents were rated in excess of 2000 and included one GM.

Matthew clearly played very well and returned home with a 50 per cent record. He then played three rounds in the Manchester Open Congress and again all his opponents were rated over 2000 and again he returned with a 50 per cent record.

Matthew picked up 41 ratings points from these two competitions.

At the 4NCL he was joined by our other Matthew, Matthew Davies. Matthew played in the major section and could have anticipated returning with an unbeaten record. However he recorded 3.5 points from his five games, losing 10 ratings points along the way.

Last week saw the Welsh Chess Union (WCU) play host to the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF). As part of this meeting a match was played between the ICCF and the WCU. 15 matches took place and included in the WCU team was ex-Barry Chess Club member Bill Hewitt.

The ICCF team won

the match by 8.5 to 6.5 with Bill contributing one of our points by defeating F Baumbach.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

PHIL JONES

Vale golfer selected for top junior event

THERE are three Wales players in the Great Britain and Ireland team for Europe's top junior golf team event for the first time in the modern format of the competition.

The trio picked in the nine man team for the Jacques Leglise Trophy between GB and Ireland and the Continent of Europe are Ben Chamberlain, Padesworth and Buckley, Tim Harry, Vale Resort, and Thomas Williams, Wrexham, for the match at Royal Dornoch.

Captain's day with the Barry Central ladies



The Barry Central ladies enjoyed captain's day!

CAPTAIN Barbara would like to thank her wonderfully loyal ladies team for their efforts during the past season.

She commented: "We did not win every match played, but (and it's a very big but) the spirit in which you entered every game, even when we were short, was inspirational."

"We also had fun - well done my girls, you did me proud. "Special thanks to the 'Rah Rah Girls', our staunch supporters, we all appreciate your presence - love and thanks."

If anyone would care to join our happy band, please contact our secretary, Jennifer Morgan, on 01446 412976 - we'd love to meet you. BB

Llantwit A team are looking good

ONCE again our midweek game, on August 20, was cancelled by the opposition, Kenfig and Pyle.

We could have done with a run out midweek, as we were entertaining fourth-placed Barry Central on August 22, in which we needed as many points as possible to see off our nearest rivals, Ynysybwl.

Thanks to a fine all round performance we managed 12 points out of a possible 14. This leaves us needing a minimum of six points from our last game away to Cadroxton, to secure promotion.

Against Barry Central, after 10 ends Llantwit were leading by just five shots with Graham Merchant's boys having a very close encounter, being just two shots up.

Mike Adams' four once again turned in a fine performance, although Mike admits that he was not at his best in this game, but they

were 11-11 after 10 ends. Eric Hacker's rink, although being 4-0 up after three ends, found the experienced Ted Hudd a handful, ably supported by his grandson Owen David.

They were given a good start by the front two and after 10 ends, Llantwit were 14-4 down.

But with the fight which has been shown by the whole of the Llantwit side this season, they eventually caught up and passed the Central four, scoring on the last four ends. This included an eight on the 18th end to run out winners 24-16.

We welcomed back Keith Alexander on Saturday, skipping his rink of Geoff Timms, who is improving every

week and turned in a particularly good performance, backed up by Mike Jones, who also had a very good first 10 ends.

The rink was up by 14-2 after 10, but only managed to score four shots to Central's 11 in the remaining 11 ends, holding on to win 18-13.

The rinks were: M. Harmon, J. O'Brien, P. Toomey, G. Merchant 25-13; J. Ball, K. Alexander 18-13; C. Williams, A. Horgan, K. Williams, E. Hacker 24-16; and A. Vincent, G. Snowden, J. Nixon, M. Adams 22-24.

Well done lads, one more fine performance on Saturday will see us safely in second place, and promotion. WJB

Millwood bowling news round-up

MILLWOOD welcomed Gelligaled on Saturday for the most important game for these two sides of the fixture list, as Gelligaled (lying top) were only four points ahead of Millwood (in second), ahead of Ynysyngarad (eight points behind).

A good win was crucial to both sides in the fight for promotion, and so it turned out to be.

With the first five ends completed, Millwood had a three-shot lead at 19-16, which after the 10th end had increased to a 10-shot lead at 42 to 32.

Into the third quarter of the game, they started to pile on the pressure, for at the 15th end Millwood had a comfortable 28-shot margin, 69-41.

Gelligaled could not respond to the fine bowling from the Millwood players, and after the 21st, the final score was a very gratifying 37-shot win for Millwood, 95-58, with a maximum winning points total (14-0).

This was just the result that was needed, and depending on the Ynysyngarad and Thomastown result, Millwood should be assured of promotion! Eyes will be firmly fixed on this forthcoming result.

A word must be said for the performance of all Millwood players, especially Brian Croxford's rink for their 22-shot win - well done everyone.

Our final game is this Sunday against Ynysyngarad - no time to rest as we need another good result, here's hoping. JH

Surprise win for bowlers

L LANTWIT MAJOR men's bowls team played their penultimate league game on Saturday when they visited Taffs Well.

After two poor performances in their previous games, Llantwit came into this game not brimming with confidence against one of the top teams. However, they earned a magnificent win, collecting 12 points, 82-74.

Graham Jones' rink were 12 shots down after only five ends and they were still trailing by 13 shots after 12. A terrific comeback in the second

half of the match, collecting eight shots on the final four ends, gave them a win by one shot.

Charles Hiscock's rink were also behind by nine shots after four ends; a five by Llantwit on the next end reduced the deficit and a good spell by Llantwit saw them score 10 shots over six ends to put them in front by five.

A six by Taffs Well on the 17th end drew them a level but Llantwit scored another five shots over the final ends to win by four shots, another example of a good fightback.

Steve Booker's rink were runaway winners, leading throughout the

match and restricting Taffs Well to only six winning ends.

Llantwit scored 13 shots over the last nine ends to coast home by 19 shots; this rink claimed the double over Taffs Well.

Neville Young's rink started well, holding the lead until the 17th end with the rink outbowling the opposition. Then the wheels came off with the Taffs Well front men finding their touch, putting in some good bowls around the jack.

Llantwit failed to score on the final six ends, going down heavily by 16 shots.

HD

NY

Great Welsh steeplechase jockeys - Dick Francis

THIS week's subject from Brian Lee's out-of-print book, *Welsh Steeplechase Jockeys* (Cwmned Press 1993) is Dick Francis.

With the war years taking their toll of a number of racecourses throughout the country, the closure of Cardiff's Ely Racecourse saw the end of an era, as far as Welsh steeplechasing was concerned.

There have been, however, a number of good Welsh horsemen since the Second World War who have carried on the great tradition of Welsh National Hunt racing. None more so than Dick Francis who was champion jockey in the 1953-54 season when he rode 76 winners.

This unassuming and kindly man, whose racing thrillers topped the best seller lists for years, and who was born in 1920, told me, many years ago now... "I was born and bred in Pembrokeshire, although I did move from there with my family at quite a young age before moving to Berkshire."

"My father Vincent Francis had been stable jockey to Lord Phillips, whose stable was situated at Lawrenny, and he rode at the same time as the Anthony brothers, and in the early days of the Rees brothers. Indeed, my father's father, his grandfather, lived next door to Brychan Rees, a veterinary surgeon who attended the horses of David Harrison, the Tenby trainer. Brychan Rees was also the father

of F B Rees (Dick) and L B Rees."

A former RAF pilot, after the war he rode for George Owen as an amateur - with considerable success. He rode his first winner at Bangor-on-Dee on *Wrenbury Tiger*, in a hunter chase in 1946.

Later that same day, he rode his second winner when *Blitz Boy* took the novices steeplechase.

When Dick turned professional, two years later, he was retained by Lord Bicester as second stable jockey to Irishman Martin Molony.

Dick was to become associated with some very good steeplechasers and these included *Finnure*, on whom he won the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park, *Roimond* on whom he was runner-up in the Grand National, *Silver Fame*, *Crudwell* and, of course, *Devon Loch*, on whom he nearly won the 1956 Grand National.

Owned by the Queen Mother, *Devon Loch* must go down in racing history as the unluckiest loser ever.

After jumping the last fence in front of the eventual winner *ESB, Devon Loch* (still full of running) suddenly seemed to try and jump an imaginary obstacle, resulting in him slithering along the ground on his undercarriage just 20 yards or so from the winning post.

In four seasons, Dick carried the royal colours to success on 10 occasions, winning on those good performers *M'as-tu-vu*, *Double Star* and *Devon*

Loch.

When the Welsh Grand National was first staged at Chepstow Racecourse in 1949, it was Dick who rode *Fighting Line* to victory.

Earlier that same year, he had had his first ride in the Grand National and finished runner-up on *Roimond* who was conceding 1st 4lb to the winner *Russian Hero* - whom Dick would have ridden had he not been retained by Lord Bicester to ride *Roimond*.

It was something of a coincidence then that the second time he won the Welsh Grand National was in 1956, the same year that he had almost won at Liverpool on *Devon Loch*.

On this occasion, he won on *Crudwell*, one of the most versatile horses in training. *Crudwell*, who was owned by Mr A Large and trained by Fred Cundell, set a record by winning 39 steeplechases, seven flat races and four hurdle events. *Crudwell* ran in 108 races and won 50 of them. And it was on *Crudwell* at Leicester that Dick was to ride into the winners' enclosure for the last time.

He was the leading jockey when a bad fall at Newbury put an end to his race riding career.

Had the war not delayed his riding career, he was 26 when he became a jockey - there is no telling how many winners he would have ridden. As it was, from a total of 2,305 rides he rode 345 winners.

One thing certain though is that during the 10

years he graced the scene, there were very few finer horsemen than Dick Francis.

Dick Francis OBE MBE died in the Cayman Islands in February 2010. During his racing career he had broken his nose five times, his skull twice, his arm, wrists, vertebrae on numerous occasions as well as his collarbone 12 times and suffered various other injuries.

He wrote, with the help of his wife Mary, 42 best selling racing novels, which were read all over the world.

However, he once said that "My only regret is not winning the Grand National."

He would have given up all his success and riches to have added his name to the list of Welshmen who have won the world's greatest Steeplechase.

Contact Brian Lee on 02920 736438.

James gets that gold feeling!



JAMES Savory of Barry (pictured left) recently returned from the World Games in Los Angeles with a silver medal for Sprint Kayaking.

Last weekend James competed in the first competition of the Badminton season for 2015/2016, this being the Four Nations Para Badminton competition which took place in the National Sport Wales Centre Cardiff.

With 50+ players taking part from all four home nations, James competed with his partner Stephen Davies from Wrexham in the men's doubles, winning the final and receiving a gold medal.

JS

Cadoxton bowlers just pipped against Abercynon

CADOXTON'S match at Abercynon decided whether promotion would be achieved or not; once again they were unable to finish, although they were in front until the penultimate end.

Throughout the game, each side had two winning and two losing rinks but the Cadoxton winners always had enough shots to cover the other two, until the lead was lost on the 20th end by two shots. It was still the same difference at the end.

Kelvin Chedgoy, standing in as skip instead of the absent Roy Harding had a superb result with his rink. They failed to score on just six ends and led throughout to complete a 20-shot success.

John Jones skipped the other successful rink. After conceding a '4' on the first, they were soon in front and built a 25-8 shot lead by the 17th end. Unfortunately, that was the end of their lucrative ends and they conceded 11 shots on the final run in.

The other two rinks, skipped by Don Kuhnell and Howard Craven, were unable to stem the flow of regular shots against, and although they were covered for most of the game, their losses were eventually too much.

Scores: J Stacey, D Evans, G Davies, D Kuhnell 12-27; P Swannick, A Prince, P Ellis, K Chedgoy 29-9; S Clarke, I Robertson, D Brook, J Jones 25-19; W Craven, L Adams, D Jeffries, H Craven 9-27. Final score: 75-82.

CADOXTON 'A' v YSTRAD MYNACH 'A' - CML7

The complete turn-out did not last long, for the Cadoxton 'A' side despite their win last week.

They were reduced to three players short again, for the visit of Ystrad Mynach 'A'.

They did produce one winning rink, a triple skipped by Howard Hellyar. The match was close throughout with the scores level on 1, 6, 8 and 9. Four winning singles on the final ends ensured the victory.

Alan Carpenter skipped a rink with the four players, and after 12 ends were close at 9-11, but a '6' and '4' took the chances away, which was eventually shattered with a '7' on the last.

David Fanning's triple was successful on the opening few ends but never came to terms, after a scoreless run during the following eight ends.

Dennis Hammond also started well with his triple, by taking a 3-1 advantage. By the 10th end there was just a two shot deficit. However eight shots were scored against during four more ends to squash any hopes.

Scores: R Cole, R Morris, D Fanning 12-22; G Garland, R Byrne, H Hellyar 16-14; S Clements, G Solomon, D Hammond 13-19; G Powell, J Smart, A Field, A Carpenter 11-32. Final score: 52-87.

Due the completion of the Munro Cup a friendly was arranged with Llantwit Major; however this was washed out with heavy rain. DK

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COTTRELL LADIES ENJOY AWAY TRIP



FOURTEEN Cottrell Park Golf Club ladies travelled across the bridge for their three days away at Bicester Golf and Country Club in Oxfordshire, which was organised by the ladies captain Helen Poole.

The golf course was suitable for all, quite flat but with the back nine more challenging.

On arrival, after coffee and bacon rolls, a team competition, best two out of three scores, was played. The winners were Patsie Smith, Helen Poole and Elinor Norris with 73 points.

Longest drive was won by Sian Lovell (Div 1) and Angela Padfield (Div 2);

nearest the pin was Helen Poole.

The second day was an individual Stableford for the Lady Cottrell trophy which was won by Sian Lovell, vice captain, with 35 points. Longest drive went to Sian Lovell (Div 1), Jen Thomas (Div 2), and nearest the pin was Helen Poole.

The final day was a Waltz and Yellow ball competition; two teams returned with their yellow ball.

The longest drive for Div 1 was Helen Poole and Div 2 Jackie Wells, nearest the pin Helen Evans.

The highlight of the day was a hole in one by Jan Cosby, immediate past captain, which caused great delight and was a fitting finish to a lovely break.

The ladies enjoyed



ABOVE: Jan Cosby and Helen Poole.
RIGHT: Sian Lovell.

the hotel facilities, excellent food and a large spa.

Jan Cosby thanked Helen Poole for all her hard work and organisation, ably supported by Sian Lovell. All agreed they had a really good time.

CB



Neville Southall and Phil Thompson with PG10 youngsters.

PG10 meet Phil and Big Nev!

DURING the summer holidays children and young people from across Vale and Cardiff recently participated in a unique two day soccer camp with Premier League giants Liverpool FC and PG10.

On day one children where taught new skills and techniques by qualified UEFA PG10 coaches in a

fun and safe environment in the Vale.

On day two children and young people visited Liverpool FC for a personal tour of the world famous Anfield stadium and the museum learning about the club's rich history, with Liverpool FC legend and Sky Sports pundit Phil Thompson

Thompson played for Liverpool 377 times and England 42 times and was also the Liverpool assistant manager. The children were inspired to hear of some of the stories from his playing and coaching career.

The children also viewed the Steven Gerrard football collection and enjoyed a Q and A with Thompson. Wales and Everton FC legend Neville Southall also attended the day inspiring the children throughout the day.

For more information on PG10 and its opportunities please email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

Barrivale bridge

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for August 18:

1st Debbie & Simon Richards 75.83%; 2nd Huw & Celia Thomas 54.17%; 3rd Jenny Vaughan & Denis Mottram 52.50%. Debbie and Simon Richards also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Romilly Bowls club Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

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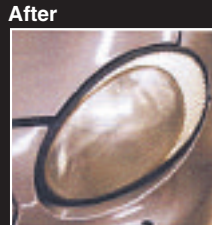
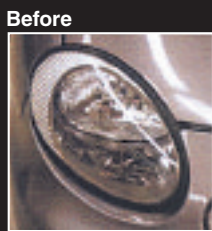
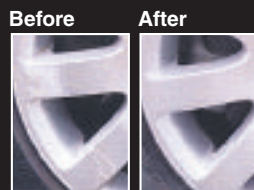
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Youth to the fore at Llandow Kart Club...

FAMILIAR faces on the top step of the podium was a feature of Llandow Kart Club's August round as the Welsh club moved into the second half of its championship campaign.

Despite the school holidays continuing to subdue entries across the board, the club introduced standing starts for all able classes, as well as staging the first of four events constituting its inaugural Bambino Challenge.

The racing was excellent throughout and, with no delays to the timetable, the drivers were rewarded with increased track time for the finals.

The new Bambino competition, which will run through to the end of the championship season in November, will count three rounds from four, with the winner being judged on the consistency of their lap times. Drivers will compete for the Richard Dowers Bambino Award, remembering the club's former secretary and keen supporter of the Bambino class.

Novice Oscar Blanchard marked himself out as a name to watch in the category after topping all four track sessions, edging out Llandow regular Nathan Browning in the process.

Ryley Price and another rookie, Ryan Smith, were left to contest third spot, with Price filling the position each time. All drivers showed improved times through the day and were duly presented with trophies for their efforts.

The two Cadet classes were combined at this event, with the returning IAME field joining the Honda runners after missing July. Honda honours were shared between Ben Watson and July winner Axel Laflamme, but it

was the latter who emerged on top in the final, beating the consistent Austin Maddocks to the flag by a couple of seconds.

Just as he had four weeks previously, Watson completed the Honda podium, but was separated from the top two on this occasion by IAME winner Thomas Nippers, who had duelled with Harry Yardley-Rose throughout the day.

Like Laflamme, Nippers opened out a two-second gap over his rival in the last race of the day, with Alexander Austin completing the podium. Honda novice Ellis Puleio was rewarded with driver of the day honours for his efforts.

After their close encounters last month, the battle between Junior Honda runners Alex Wilkins and Ben Cutler did not disappoint, the pair going head-to-head in each of their four races.

Wilkins took the heats 2-1, but it was Cutler who crossed the line first, by just a couple of tenths, in the final.

Despite the depth of talent on show, Ryan Edwards proved unbeatable in Junior TKM, claiming all three heats as well as the final. July winner Louis Beaven started the day as Edwards' closest challenger, taking second in heats one and two, but it was Yousuf Ashraf who claimed runners-up honours in the final, pushing Beaven back to third ahead of Jack Johns, who had been a top three finisher earlier in the day.

The class' only rookie, Adam Crofts-Davies took home the novice of the day award.

Like Edwards, Welsh champion Kristian Prosser proved unwilling to relinquish top spot in Senior Honda, seeing off a host of would-be challengers to remain unbeaten throughout the day.

Monty Gorrington claimed a brace of seconds from the heats, with Tom Ford taking the other, but it was Patrick Hill who came through to edge Gorrington for the runners-up spot in the final, with Ford ultimately finishing fourth.

Morgan Rose returned to the top of the Senior Rotax tree after missing out in July, and refused to allow anyone a look at P1 as he too claimed all four races on offer. Sam Morgan ran Rose close in the first two heats before the gap between the leader and the chasing pack increased as the event went on.

Rose eventually claimed the final by a little over three seconds, with Rob Ellis taking second spot from Scott Rose by a similar distance. Morgan's day, meanwhile, ended in frustration as he was forced to retire from the final after 10 laps.

Round eight of the Llandow Kart Club championship will take place on Sunday, September 20.

RESULTS

BAMBINO: 1. Oscar Blanchard (Wright), 2. Nathan Browning (Synergy), 3. Ryley Price (Haase), 4. Ryan Smith (Topkart); **CADET HONDA:** 1. Axel Laflamme (Zip), 2. Austin Maddocks (Project One), 3. Ben Watson (Project One); **JUNIOR HONDA:** 1. Ben Cutler (7Kart), 2. Alex Wilkins (7Kart); **JUNIOR TKM:** 1. Ryan Edwards (Tonykart), 2. Yousuf Ashraf (Tonykart), 3. Louis Beaven (Tonykart); **SENIOR HONDA:** 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Patrick Hill (Wright), 3. Monty Gorrington (7Kart); **SENIOR ROTAX:** 1. Morgan Rose (Tonykart), 2. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 3. Scott Rose. *Best novice: Adam Crofts-Davies (Junior TKM); driver of the day: Ellis Puleio (Cadet Honda).*

CL

Rainbow Haze's Worcester win ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

FORMER Welsh winning point-to-pointer Rainbow Haze, trained by Phil Dando at Peterston-Super-Ely, was a 9-1 winner of the Startin Honda Handicap Hurdle at Worcester last week.

Ridden by Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, aged 27, the nine-year-old homebred gelding won by a length from 10-1 chance Bob Lewis.

Earlier in the day, Rainbow Haze's stable mate Moontripper had finished third behind the Evan Williams-trained Roadie Joe in the Startin Skoda Standard Open National Hunt Flat race.

Roadie Joe was partnered by Lewis Gordon and was a 20-1 outsider.

Other Welsh winners at the meeting were Buachail Alann and Dr Robin who were both trained by Pembroke's Peter Bowen and partnered by

his son Sean Bowen. At Stratford on Thursday Panis Angelicus, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthyn, was an easy winner of the Edward Brain Plant Hire Novices' Hurdle under leading jockey Richard Johnson, coming home 18 lengths ahead of Almagest trained at Penhow near Chepstow by Robert Stephens.

EVAN'S LONG TRIP PAYS OFF

Lancaster's Evan Williams sent his Court Minstrel on a 430-mile trip to Perth last Saturday to contest the £12,512 Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer STV Appeal Summer Hurdle.

The eight-year-old bay gelding, owned by the Vale's Janet Davies, and ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won by the shortest distance possible - a nose from Commissioned with the favourite Itirad just a further head away in third place; Court Minstrel was a 6-1 chance.

Interest in taking over Scorpions

WALES Rugby League chairman Brian Juliff is delighted at the amount of interest shown in taking over South Wales Scorpions Rugby League Club.

The national governing body took over the Kingstone Press League 1 outfit two years ago, running the club as a stable business, after original owner and founder Phil Davies decided to relinquish control and at the start of this month, WRL put a release out to seek new owners to take the club forward.

So far, Juliff says that there have been six interested parties, two formal applications and others interested in getting involved in a potential consortium.

"All of this interest is very promising," said Juliff, who played at the highest level of Rugby League for Wigan, Halifax,

Castleford, Wakefield and Wales.

"I do believe that to take the Scorpions forward, we need to spend up to the salary cap and for that, we need someone to come in who is prepared to invest in the club, be it with their own money or through sponsorship.

"It's very encouraging that there are six people and I do see potential in what has been received so far. It'll be good to have a big decision to make.

"It could be that we have one person take over the club or there is a potential for a consortium like has happened with North Wales Crusaders. It's fantastic to see all this interest in rugby league in Wales."

Juliff, now London-based, played for Pontypridd, Newport and his home town Mountain Ash before turning professional.

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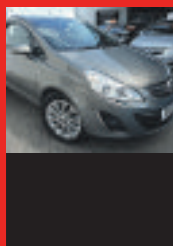
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COUNTING DOWN TO THE 2015 RUGBY WORLD CUP

Dragon targets Dublin turnaround



Forget 'friendly World Cup warm-up' stand by for a typical Celtic dust-up!

BEFORE the first Rugby World Cup 'warm-up' against Ireland at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium three weeks ago, this column noted that while a win is always the primary objective in any sport, the result on that occasion was likely less important to the Welsh camp than exposing young players in an experimental line-up to test the strength in depth.

The answer came in brutal fashion with the 35-21 mauling of the miscellany of debutants, relative international novices and fringe players – who were swept away by a green tide of far more experienced and street-wise Irish second-stringers with a different set of priorities.

Last year's Six Nations champions, currently number two in the world, are plainly focused on extending a morale-boosting, match-winning run in the countdown to RWC 2015 to maintain momentum for next month's tournament.

Wales' dire display, and in particular, the front five's first-half failure to establish the secure platform up front on which all else depends, sounded an ominous warning that, despite a modest

improvement following a flurry of substitutions in the second half, worrying problems persist at the coalface with just weeks remaining to the big kick-off.

All who wish Wales well have their fingers – and toes – crossed that these will be remedied with the (hopeful) return of tight head Samson Lee from injury and the as yet untried Tomas Francis, to perform the vital task of anchoring the pack fulfilled so ably and for so long by Adam Jones.

What a shame that this great warrior's glittering international career has ended in bitter controversy with the ill-timed publication of an autobiography charting his axing from the national squad.

No doubt there are issues on both sides and it is difficult for those on the outside to have an informed opinion on the exact sequence of events.

Whatever the rights and wrongs, it's a sensitive time all round when a truly great player's international career begins to draw to a close.

In Jones's case, when that clearly emotional moment came, it does seem a pity if he was not at least considered for a specialist mentoring role within the squad, to lessen the blow and keep him on board, particularly in view of

by
DON JOHN

the dearth of comparable Welsh props – as the current crisis vividly demonstrates.

Instead, that role will now be performed over the border for his new employers, English club Harlequins, whose young props will reap the benefit of his priceless knowledge of the 'dark arts' when he joins up with them this season.

Meanwhile, the focus is now on the return clash with Ireland in Dublin on Saturday and, after the previous outcome, there is no way that either side will approach this one as another 'friendly' warm-up with the Rugby World Cup so near.

Indeed, it's far more likely to fit the more familiar pattern of lively 'dust-ups' as both camps look to gain a psychological edge.

The Irish, in front of an expectant crowd, were widely expected to field something like their strongest side and ram home their advantage.

Warren Gatland was also expected to bring his big guns to bear and show that the Cardiff result was merely a planned 'one-

Prop Tomas Francis faces his sternest test on Saturday as he strives to solve the Welsh camp's tight-head crisis.



off' experiment with little or no relevance to the much bigger World Cup battles that lie ahead, when the real hostilities start in earnest next month.

He will not risk a second humiliation.

However, Irish head coach Joe Schmidt will no doubt again issue instructions to his men to target the perceived vulnerability of the

Welsh front row.

...And he won't be the only one interested in the outcome – Wales' four Group A rivals will also be keeping a keen eye on things.

It all amounts to huge pressure on the young shoulders of new cap Tomas Francis and everyone (at least those wearing red) will be hoping to see a second Adam Jones in the making!

Cowbridge Bowls Club ladies reach the Super League!

IT was known last week that our ladies had topped their Thursday afternoon league but it has now been confirmed that as champions, they will be promoted into a Glamorgan Super League for 2016.

In addition, the ladies have performed well in two other competitions, a two-rink evening league and in the Cowbridge Shield. Congratulations to captain Diane Lloyd, her selectors and to all her team members making 2015 so memorable.

Last Saturday, the men welcomed Beddau to Cowbridge. It was a game that we needed to win to get away from the foot of the table.

We play better when the sun shines and luckily it shone throughout play. It was a good overall performance with wins on three of the rinks and a draw on the other for a shot difference of 29 and 13 valuable points.

Rink scores: Terry Dunsworth, Len Taylor, Colin Wilson and Clive Pritchard (skip) 23-15; Tony Lewis, Bryan Hole, Guy Morton and Norman Wilkinson (skip) 24-14; Mansel Davey, Brian Williams, Byron Richards and Roger Barwick (skip) 23-12;

Ron Frayling, Gerry Lloyd, Michael Bradley and Bob Penn (skip)

18-18. Match score: Cowbridge 88, Beddau 59.

The previous evening, Friday social triples ended its 12-week run with a party. We had hoped to play eight ends before eating but rain put an end to that, but not before we played 'spider' (all bowlers take up a position at the edge of the green using all four sides and bowl on a command to a jack placed in the centre of the green).

Bowls crash into each other but Phil Woosnam's bowl managed to trail the jack to win a prize. We then retired to party and later winners of the friendly social triples competition were presented with their prizes by Sue Flower.

The winning team, known as Terry's Tigers, included new and experienced bowlers.

Terry's team mates were Diane Purnell, Maggie Penn, Eric Sewell, Steve Dodsworth, Joan Bradley and Terry Williams.

This coming weekend, the club will be holding its triples competition. The preliminary rounds will be played on Friday, August 28, and the finals played on Sunday and Monday, August 30-31.

On Saturday, the men's team play their last league game of the season away to Bargoed.

MB

Pre-season win for Cowbridge

ON a sweltering Saturday afternoon, Cowbridge entertained Cefn Cribwr RFC for a pre-season run out on the Police Field.

Both sides provided squads of about 30 players and the afternoon was split into three 30-minute sessions. It was great to see a mixture of youth and experience for Cowbridge and, despite the oppressive conditions, both sides contributed to an open game with good rugby throughout.

Cowbridge finally ran out winners 14-10 but it could have been a lot more, with many opportunities created throughout the game.

Coaches Leigh Davies and Dan Williams and captain Huw Lougher will have been pleased with the performance, and with several key players unavailable, the prospects for the coming season look bright.

The first league match is at home against Tonyrefail on Saturday, September 5, preceded by the youth against Rummy in the first round of the Cardiff and District Cup. It was hoped that both games would be played on the Athletic Field but the WRU have instructed all league games to kick off at 1.30pm on that Saturday, so the youth game will now take place on the Police Field.

It was good to see Rhod Walker at the club on Saturday following his injury a few weeks ago and that he is well on the road to recovery. Rhys Price is also progressing well following knee surgery a few weeks ago – hopefully both will be back to full fitness soon.

Finally, captain Huw Lougher will be marrying Anna on September 5. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

RV/RK

The power is with Amanda as she lands a top lifting title

A Cowbridge woman who helps in the physical rehabilitation of people in the Vale recently won a four nations powerlifting title in Glasgow.

Amanda Gisby (33) who lives in Cowbridge, but is originally from Dover, told The GEM: "I was awarded best female lifter at the recent British Drug Free Power Lifting Association event in Glasgow on August 1."

Powerlifting differs from weightlifting and uses the squat, bench press, and deadlift – none of which is directed vertically overhead – while weightlifting uses the snatch, and the 'clean and jerk', both overhead movements.

Amanda, a former electronic warfare specialist with the Royal Corps Signals, works for the Vale Council at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

She's had a busy



Amanda Gisby, from Cowbridge, is one of Britain's top power lifters.

summer of competition. "I came fifth in my first UK Strongest Woman Competition in July, and was the strongest Welsh woman there."

"The event included lifting cars, 60kg bag runs, pulling trucks, 180kg yoke runs, and an overhead log press."

Amanda holds six Welsh records and

recently broke the Welsh deadlift record of 165kg. She is also the current British Powerlifting Champion holding two British records – squat 125kg, and 'overall total' 355kg.

In September, Amanda will be off to Bristol University to start a 'post graduate certificate of education' in chemistry.

Cowbridge CC on promotion course - see page 28 for full story!